

10 Modals with Meanings

CAN: Ability, doubt, polite request, astonishment, permission

WILL: Wish, in the future, desire, will, confidence

WOULD: Wish (with “to like”), a habit of the past

SHALL: supposition, intention

OUGHT TO: Moral duty, strict recommendation, insistent advice

HAVE TO: Unwillingness, forced circumstances

MUST: Obligation, logical conclusion, probability, firm necessity

MAY: Permission, supposition with doubt, if not prohibition

BE TO: Obligation arising out of arrangement or agreement

NEED: necessity