Modality

Mood is a grammatical category, typically expressed by verb inflection, which indicates what the speaker is doing with a proposition in a particular discourse situation. Mood normally identifies the status of an utterance; for example, an utterance may be **indicative** (the usual form), **imperative** (a command), **hortative** (an exhortation), or **subjunctive** (a subordination). Mood is also referred to as **modality** or **mode**, especially when inflectional forms are not involved. **Modal auxiliaries** are verb-like words which typically express speakers' attitudes towards the factual content of an utterance, such as factuality, likelihood, uncertainty, possibility, and necessity (*may*, *could*, *ought*, etc.).

Modals: *can*, *could*; *may*, *might*; *will*, *would*; *shall*, *should*; *must*, (*ought to*).

"Semi-modals": *need*, *dare*, *used to*, (*ought to*).

Meanings	Modal auxiliaries										
	can	may	might	could	would	will	shall	must	should	ought to	used to
possibility	♥♥♥	♥♥♥	♥♥♥	♥♥							
ability	♥♥			♥♥							
permission	♥♥	♥	♥	♥							
habit					♥♥						
volition (or wish)		♥			♥♥	♥♥	♥♥				
prediction (or future)					♥♥	♥♥♥	♥♥♥				
unreal meaning			♥	♥♥♥	♥♥♥				♥♥		
"tentative" meaning									♥		
strong obligation								♥♥♥			
weak obligation									♥♥♥	♥♥♥	
strong deduction								♥♥♥			
weak deduction		♥♥	♥♥♥	♥♥♥							
past state or habit											♥♥♥