Modal	Example	Function
MAY	May I go to the conference?	Asking for permission.
	I may be able to help you with your project tomorrow.	Future possibility.
MIGHT	We might be interrupting their lunch.	Present possibility.
	They might make us an offer.	Future possibility.
CAN	They can fix the problem.	Ability.
	They can't fix the problem.	Inability.
	Can I have a cup of coffee?	Request
	Can I smoke in here?	Asking for permission.
COULD	Could you help me?	Request.
	Could I take tomorrow off?	Asking for permission.
	We could try unplugging it?	Suggestion.
	I could come to LA next month.	Future possibility.
	I left London, so I could get a job here.	Ability in the past.
WILL	I'll give you a call on Monday	Promise.
	I'll take these figures with me.	Instant decision.
	We'll book your tickets if you like.	Offer.
	We will see an increase in salaries next year.	Certain prediction.
WOULD	Would you mind if I opened a window?	Asking for permission.
	Would you make me a coffee?	Request.
	Would you be available at 6pm tonight?	Making arrangements.
	Would you like to go out some time?	Invitation.
	Would you prefer the window seat or the aisle?	Preferences.
SHALL	Shall I get the phone? Or will you?	Asking what to do.
	Shall I call a cab?	Offer.
	Shall we say 10pm at Roxy's then?	Suggestion.
SHOULD	You should see a doctor, you don't look well.	Advice.
	We should get a specialist.	Recommending action.
	Salaries should go up next year.	Uncertain prediction.
OUGHT TO	You ought to go to the dentist before you leave.	Advice.
MUST	I must leave now to catch my train.	Obligation/ Necessity
	You mustn't ask too many questions.	Prohibition.