**Modality -** is a semantic category that expresses the relations between the utterance and objective reality from the point of view of the speaker.

The speaker can establish different types of relations between the action expressed in the utterance and reality. We can regard the action as real/unreal, likely/unlikely, possible/impossible, necessary/unnecessary, etc.

The representation of a contents of a sentence as real/unreal is called **objective modality,** since the contents of a sentence are correlated with objective reality.

*The girl is clever. The father is angry.*Here the speaker states facts.

Objective modality expressed in these sentences is modality of reality. But as to subjective modality, these sentences are neutral.

#: I *doubt if the girl is clever. Unfortunately father is angry.*Here the speaker expresses not only objective, but also subjective modality. **Subjective modality** expresses the attitude of the speaker towards the contents of a sentence, the evaluation of contents of the sentence or part of the sentence. The speaker can express doubt, agreement, disagreement, etc.

**Modality is expressed by:**

- mood

- modal verbs

- modal words *(possibly, probably, fortunately, certainly, indeed, maybe,*etc)

**Mood** is a grammatical category which indicates the attitude of the speaker towards the action expressed by the verb from the point of view of its reality.

There are many points of view on how many moods there are in English, but if we take traditional classification:

- the indicative mood

- the imperative mood

- the subjunctive mood

- The indicative mood shows that the action or state expressed by the verb **is presented as a fact:** *We went home early in the evening.*

It is also used **to**express **a real condition,** that is a condition the realization of which is considered possible: *If it rains, I will stay at home.*

*-*The imperative mood expresses a **command or request:** *Put the papers on my table.*

*-*The subjunctive mood shows that the action or state expressed by the verb is presented as **non-fact, as something imaginary or desired.** It's also used to **express an emotional attitude of the speaker to real facts***(emotional should)*

**Objective and subjective modality. Means of expressing modality. Mood and modality.**

**Modality (Mod)- is a linguistic term which denotes the relation of the contents of speech to reality as viewed by the speaker.**

In the case of Objective Mod. We must introduce a V into a sentence and it will show the connection with reality.

In the case of Subjective Mod. We can choose some additional means to express our attitude.

Means of expressing Mod: modal words express the speaker’s evaluation of the relation between the made in the sentence and reality. They stand outside phrases; their syntactical function - parenthesis. Semantically can denote: 1) certainty (*certainly, of course, no doubt, surely)*

2) supposition (*may be, perhaps*) 3) desirability (*luckily, happily*).

Modal Vs do not denote actions or states but show the attitude of the speaker towards the action expressed by the infinitive. Thus the action is viewed as possible, obligatory, requested etc.

So, modal Vs- is lexico-grammatical Mod. Mood- is the Gr. Category of the V reflecting the relation of the action denoted by the V to reality from the speaker’s point of view.

**The cat of MOOD. Different points of view on the number of moods in modern Eng. Forms used to express unreality in Eng.**

The category of mood expresses the character of connection between the process denoted, by the verb and the actual reality, either presenting the process as a fact that really happened, happens or will happen, or treating it as an imaginary phenomenon # the subject of a hypothesis, speculation, desire.

**Forms used to express unreality:**

The Subjunctive mood is used in **conditional** Ss to express an unreal condition (=subordinate

clause) and an unreal consequence (=principal clause).

1.Unreal condition referring **to the present or future** the Past Subjunctive of the verb *to be*is in the subordinate clause, in the principal clause we find analytical subjunctive (would, should + Infinitive) **[would/should],** (were...)

The world **would be** healthier if every chemist's shop in England **were demolished.**

Unreal condition referring **to the future** can also be expressed by the Past Subj of the verb *to be+ infinitive*of the notional verb or the analytical subj with the mood auxiliary *should*for all persons.

If I **were to offer** my home, they were probably be accepted.

If you **should send** me to a difficult spot with this man alone, I'd feel secure.

If there's *should*in the subordinate clause, we often find the Indicative or Imperative Mood in the principal clause.

:If any of your family **should come** to my house, **I shall be delighted** to welcome them.

2. Unreal condition referring **to the past** the Past Perfect of the Indicative mood is used in the subordinate clause, in the principal clause we find *should / would*+ *Perfect Infinitive ( have done)*[Past **Perfect],** (should/would have done)

If I had consulted my own interests, I should have come here.

3. Unreal Condition is often used with *might/could.*They fully retain their modal meaning and they don't form analytical subjunctive, (modal verb+Infinitive)

If she were still waiting, she might be restless.

**Mood**

Let's start with mood. Descriptions of English grammar usually recognize up to four 'moods':

1. declarative (or indicative)

2. interrogative

3. imperative

4. subjunctive

Sometimes 'indicative' is used to include declarative (statements) and interrogative (questions). (Some languages have other 'moods', apart from these three or four.)

**Declarative**

These sentences would be regarded as examples of the 'declarative mood':

We always meet at the same pub.

I've never met him.

Declarative sentences express statements, but they often have other functions too:

You've left the light on. (This can mean 'Turn it off'.)

Declarative sentences typically have subject + verb word order. But sometimes there's no subject:

Don't know where he is. Probably missed his train.

- and sometimes the subject is after the verb:

Then came the prize-giving.

- or between the auxiliary and main verbs:

Rarely have I seen such incompetence.

**Interrogative**

These sentences would be regarded as examples of the 'interrogative mood':

When was the last time we met?

Do you want tea or coffee?

Interrogative sentences express questions, but they often have other functions too:

Do you think I'm made of money? (This can mean 'Stop asking me for money.')

What did I tell you? (This can mean 'I told you so.')

And there are other ways of asking questions:

I suppose you'd like something to eat.

I'd like to know the train times for Sunday.

In interrogative sentences, the subject is typically after the verb (if there's only one verb) or between the auxiliary and main verbs. But sometimes the order is subject + verb:

You did what?!

**Imperative**

These sentences would be regarded as examples of the 'imperative mood':

Mind the step.

Switch the appliance off and remove the plug from the socket.

Don't just stand there!

See chapter 2.

Come round at the weekend.

Imperative sentences express directives, such as orders, instructions, requests, invitations etc. They typically have a verb with no subject and in the infinitive form - except for 'be', this is the same as the non-3rd person singular present simple. 'Don't' can be put before the verb to form negatives. But positive imperatives can also include an auxiliary 'do', and the subject can be included in positives or negatives:

Do be careful.

Don't mention it.

You stay here.

Don't you tell me what to do!

There may also be a 'please' or a question tag appended:

Come over here, please.

Be quiet, will you?

Some languages have specific imperative verb forms, but English doesn't: the form of the verb used in an imperative sentence is the infinitive.

**Subjunctive**

And these sentences, finally, would be regarded as examples of the 'subjunctive mood':

I demand that this barrier be opened.

They suggested that she wait a little longer.

... as if he were dreaming.

Long live the president!

Subjunctive sentences express 'uncertainty', 'unreality', 'hypotheses', 'wishes', etc. They often contain verb forms different from those that would be used in equivalent indicative sentences:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I demand that this barrier be opened. | cf. This barrier is opened ..... |
| They suggested that she wait a little longer. | cf. She waits / waited ..... |
| ... as if he were dreaming. | cf. He was dreaming. |
| Long live the president! | cf. The president lives ..... |

But sometimes the verb forms would be the same in indicative sentences:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I suggest that you wait a little longer. | cf. You wait ..... |
| ... as if they were dreaming. |  cf. They were dreaming. |
| Long live the whales! |  cf. The whales live ..... |

Some languages, e.g. German, Spanish, French, Latin, Old English, etc. have some specific subjunctive verb forms, different from indicative forms. For example, look at these third person plural forms of the verb be:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **present indicative** | **present subjunctive** | **past indicative** | **past subjunctive** |
| German | sind | seien | waren | wären |
| Old English | sindon | sien | wæron | wæren |

As you can see from the example sentences above, modern English doesn't have separate indicative and subjunctive forms; the forms which are called 'subjunctive' are:

1. the infinitive (which also, with the exception of be, serves as the non-3rd person singular present simple.)

2. were, i.e. the past tense plural form of be.

Some fixed phrases with subjunctives, such as If I were you ..., as it were, Long live ..., be that as it may and so be it are probably best learned as idioms. (Long live ... can also be regarded as a third person imperative.)

The word 'subjunctive' means 'placed underneath, subordinated, added at the end', and derives from a Latin translation from Greek; it was used in classical Greek because in that language the subjunctive mood is used almost exclusively in subordinate clauses, and in English, too, it most often appears in subordinate clauses. But because it doesn't have its own specific verb forms in English, I don't find it a very useful concept in English grammar, except maybe as way of referring to a very broad type of meaning: uncertainty, unreality, hypotheses, wishes, etc.

Modality is a category of linguistic meaning having to do with the expression of possibility and necessity. The term ‘modality’ derives from the postclassical Latin word ‘*modalitas’*. Modality is an essential topic in the study of meaning, it comprises the most significant elements in human language and contains people’s perception of everyday items, phenomena, notions, etc.

When talking about the means of expressing modality, we come across different classifications of means among the scholars. The founder of the English study in Russia B. A. Ilysh says: “Modality can be expressed in the sentence with the help of different means: modal words, modal verbs, sometimes just with the help of intonation and mood”. Accordingly, most of the scholars such as Vinogradov, Khlebnikova point out that as an extra-linguistic category modality in speech is realized by:

1. Phonological means – intonation and stress. Modality expresses the attitude of the speaker, it does everything to have a powerful impact on the listener.

2. Lexico-grammatical means – modal verbs. Lexico-grammatical means are represented with modal verbs or their equivalents and quasi words. The construction with modal verbs carry the function of compound modal verbal predicate and express different meanings, which depends on the modal verb. In English, modal verbs express likelihood, ability, permission and obligation.

3. Lexical means – modal words and expressions (subjective modality). It is expressed with modal words and expressions. Modal words comprise a large range of words which belong to different parts of speech, but their meanings allow to express.

There are less lexical means of expressing modality: modal meanings can be expressed by *nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs and particles.*

It is common knowledge that nouns themselves cannot operate on the level of the whole proposition they take part in. But they can denote the abstract concepts behind modality and their different elements. In constructions with verbs with more or less auxiliary function such nouns can even replace modal verbs.

Modal nouns express *likelihood, necessity, chance, likelihood, degree, necessity, possibility, capacity, requirement, request etc.*

Modal adjectives include *able, advisable, anxious, bound, concerned, crucial, desirable, essential, fitting, imperative, important, likely, necessary, possible, supposed, sure, vital, and willing.* They breed modal contexts of different degrees, depending on how the speaker or writer understands the situation.

e.g. *Having said that other skills are* ***likely*** *to become dispensable as global warming, population growth and food shortages loom.* (THE GUARDIAN I want to be an actor, but am afraid to follow my dream CULTURE)

Modal lexical verbs include *advice, intend, propose, recommend, require, suggest,* and *wish*verbs. Modal lexical verb have can take inflectional endings and to – infinitive clause as complement. However, it takes *‘do’* in interrogative and negative forms.

e.g. *“We are facing a massive volume of legislation, not just the main bills but then 1,000 statutory instruments* ***have to*** *be agreed, which is a massive number,” says the Lib Dem leader in the Lords, Dick Newby.* (THE GUARDIAN Fresh pressure for Theresa May as Brexit battle moves to Lords POLITICS)

Another means of modality expression is the *'modal particle’*, though this method is not common in English. A good example is the application of words ‘*too*’ and ‘*so*’ as contrary to what is said:

e.g. *If 2017 was the breakthrough year for Sigrid, 2018 isn’t shaping up* ***too*** *badly either.*(THE GUARDIAN BBC Sound of 2018 winner Sigrid: ‘Dramatic choruses – they’re the best thing in the world’ CULTURE)

*And that’s why it means* ***so*** *much to win the BBC prize, because it’s quite unbelievable as a Norwegian.* (THE GUARDIAN BBC Sound of 2018 winner Sigrid: ‘Dramatic choruses – they’re the best thing in the world’ CULTURE)

Modal adverbs are those lexical devices emphasize and disjunct something. Quirk classifies: conjuncts – sentence connectives (*however, nevertheless*), disjuncts (*probably, fortunately, frankly*), subjuncts (*willingly, deliberately,* etc.) and adjuncts of purpose, time, manner, place, etc.

A wide range of adverbs (*actually, certainly, clearly, definitely, indeed, obviously, plainly, really, surely, generally, for certain, of course, arguably. probably*, *maybe*, *possibly*, *perhaps*) is concerned with the expression of modality.

e.g. *I was very shy and it took all my courage – if the plate glass hadn’t been there,* ***maybe*** *I wouldn’t have dared get so close.* (THE GUARDIAN Photography legend Joel Meyerowitz: phones killed the sexiness of the street CULTURE)

*And, just* ***possibly****, the photographer might have got his ass kicked.* (THE GUARDIAN Photography legend Joel Meyerowitz: phones killed the sexiness of the street CULTURE)

The basic and the most wide-spread means of expression of modality in English is modal verbs. Modal verbs fall under the type of lexico-grammatical means of modality expression. It is common knowledge that modal verbs express various meanings: *can (ability, permission, possibility, request), could (ability, permission, possibility, request, suggestion), may (permission, probability, request), might (possibility, probability, suggestion) must (deduction, necessity, obligation, prohibition), shall (decision, future, offer, question, suggestion) should (advice, necessity, prediction, recommendation), will (decision, future, intention, offer, prediction, promise, suggestion), would (conditional, habit, invitation, permission, preference, request, question, suggestion).*

e.g. *Injuries* ***can*** *occur in one single moment when you come down from a serve.* (THE GUARDIAN ‘Super Swiss’ Roger Federer ready to unleash weapons on Australian Open SPORT)

e.g. *Boris believes that if the Tories are going to beat Corbyn at the next election they* ***must*** *make the NHS a top priority and deliver new funding.* (THE GUARDIAN Experts all agree NHS needs more money, Boris Johnson tells May POLITICS)

Besides the modal verbs, there is the category of quasi-modals and semi-modals that expresses modality. Quasi-modals and semi-modals express subjective attitudes and opinions of the speaker. These semi-auxiliaries behave like modals semantically but they do not share the same grammatical forms. Semi-auxiliaries are lexically complex: they are composed of two or three words and end in *to.*

Because the quasi-verbs of English comprise semi-modals and verbs of other categories namely: *had better, ought to, would rather, used to, need, dare.*

e.g. *Just as these big companies* ***need*** *to step up, so we also need cross-industry responses because smaller platforms can quickly become home to criminals and terrorists.* (THE GUARDIAN May calls on social media giants to do more to tackle terrorism POLITICS)