Modals
 1. A complete list

a) Can	g) Shall	m) BE bound to	s) possibly
b) Could	h) Should	n) BE going to	t) probably
c) Will	i) Must	o) dare to	u) perhaps
d) Would	j) Have to	p) need to	v) certainly
e) May	k) Have got to	q) Ought to	w) BE sure to
f) Might	l) BE able to	r) used to	x) BE sure that

Several of following points refer only to the central modals, (a) through (i).

 2. form
   a) no third-person ~*s* form (thus, no change for person, singular or plural)
   b) no ~*ing* or past participle forms
 3. syntax
   a) auxiliaries
   b) occur only in the first position of the verb structure
   c) only one can occur in a verb structure (except in a few dialects, such as in parts of the Southern U.S.)
   d) followed by the base form of the verb (without *to* – except for *ought to* and *used to, dare to, need to*)
 4. semantics
   a) idiosyncratic semantic and formal features, particularly in the past and negative forms
   b) three categories of meaning: epistemological, deontic, and dynamic
     • epistemological: knowledge, assumptions, deductions, and the like
     • deontic: duty, permission, obligation, and the like
     • dynamic: action, ability
   c) nearly all of the modals are used in more than one category (this at least doubles the number of meanings)
 5. past, present, and future
   a) all modals can refer to the present or the future
   b) the forms for the past are somewhat complicated, and only *could* and *would* occur without the perfect (*have*)
     • *I could do that yesterday.*
     • *I could have done that yesterday.*
     • *Ten years ago, I would run a mile every day.*
     • *I would have done that yesterday.*
     • *She might have done it yesterday.*
     • *They should have done it yesterday.*
     • *They must have done it yesterday.*
 6. idiosyncratic semantic and formal features in the negative forms
   a) "not" occurs after the modal, or perhaps after any further auxiliary
   b) "not" may negate the modal (*You may not leave*) or the proposition (*You may not be on time)*
   c) the negation of epistemic "must" is "may not": *It must have been the dog. No, it may not have been the dog; it may have been the cat. // That must be my package. No, it may not be your package; it may be mine.*
   d) speakers often use only the modal, with the other auxiliaries, omitting the verb once it is established (similar to how speakers may not say a person's name once that is established in the conversation)

Two examples to discuss:
She might need to dare to try to fly.
She might have needed to dare to try to fly. So you should not have stopped her.

Exercise: Match the meanings with the modals by writing the number of the modals in front of the meanings. Give only one answer for each item. Also, identify each as (a) epistemic, (b) deontic, or (c) dynamic.

1) can	3) will	5) may	7) shall
2) could	4) would	6) might	8) should

1) _____ physical or mental ability: *I _____ carry both suitcases. _____ you remember the war?*
2) _____ possession of a specified capability or skill: *I _____ tune the harpsichord as well as play it.*
3) _____ possession of a specified power, right, or privilege: *The President _____ veto congressional bills.*
4) _____ possibility or probability: *I wonder if my long lost neighbor _____ still be alive. Such things _____ and do happen.*
5) _____ probability or possibility under the specified circumstances: *They _____ hardly have intended to do that.*
6) _____ To be allowed or permitted to: *_____ I take a swim? Yes, you _____.*
7) _____ To be obliged; must. Used in statutes, deeds, and other legal documents.
8) _____ *Usage Problem*. Used to request or grant permission: *_____ I be excused?*
9) _____ Used after a statement of desire, request, or advice**: *I wish you _____ stay.*
10) _____ Used before a verb in the infinitive to show: **a.** Something that will take place or exist in the future: *We _____ arrive tomorrow.* **b.** Something, such as an order, a promise, a requirement, or an obligation: *You _____ leave now. He _____ answer for his misdeeds. The penalty _____ not exceed two years in prison.* **c.** The will to do something or have something take place: *I _____ go out if I feel like it.* **d.** Something that is inevitable: *That day _____ come.*

11) _____ Used to express a desire or fervent wish: *Long _____ he live!*
12) _____ Used to express contingency, purpose, or result in clauses introduced by *that* or *so that*: *expressing ideas so that the average person _____ understand.*
13) _____ Used to express obligation or duty: *You _____ send her a note.*
14) _____ Used to express possibility or probability or permission in the past: *She told him yesterday he _____ not go on the trip.*
15) _____ Used to indicate a certain measure of likelihood or possibility: *It _____ rain this afternoon.*

16) _____ Used to indicate a condition or state contrary to fact: *She _____ help if she knew the truth.*
17) _____ Used to indicate a possibility or probability that is weaker than _____: *We _____ discover a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.*
18) _____ Used to indicate ability, possibility, or permission in the past: *I _____ run faster then. It _____ be no better at that time. Only men _____ go to the club in those days.*
19) _____ Used to indicate capacity or ability: *This metal _____ not crack under heavy pressure.*
20) _____ Used to indicate customary or habitual action: *People _____ talk.*

21) _____ Used to indicate intention: *I _____ too if I feel like it.*
22) _____ Used to indicate likelihood or certainty: *You _____ regret this.*
23) _____ Used to indicate probability or expectation: *That _____ be the messenger ringing.*
24) _____ Used to indicate requirement or command: *You _____ report to me afterward.*
25) _____ Used to indicate simple futurity: *They _____ appear later.*

26) _____ Used to indicate tentativeness or politeness: *I _____ be wrong. _____ you come over here?*
27) _____ Used to indicate that which is permitted, as by conscience or feelings: *One _____ hardly blame you for being upset.*
28) _____ Used to indicate uncertainty: *It _____ seem to be getting warmer.*
29) _____ Used to make a polite request: *_____ you go with me?*
30) _____ Used with hypothetical or conditional force: *If we _____ help, we would.*

For the following: If the statement is true, write "T" in the blank before it. If not, do not write anything.

31) _____ *Can* should not be used to ask or to give permission, as in "Can we go now?" or "You can have as much as you want."
32) _____ The following rule is ambiguous: *Students can take no more than three courses*. It states that students are not able to do more than three courses, but allows the possibility that an unusually capable student could do so.
33) _____ The sentence *You shall have your money* expresses a promise ("I will see that you get your money"), whereas *You will have your money* makes a simple prediction.
34) _____ In North American English, the traditional meanings of *shall* are usually expressed by *will*.
35) _____ All of the modals considered here can refer to the present or the future.