

## Modals and Their Meaning in Context

Read the following sentences and determine the meaning the modal is expressing. Pay close attention to the context. Choose meanings from the following list.

opinion      obligation      habitual action in the past      possibility  
impossibility      certainty      ability in the past      preference  
condition      lack of necessity

### The Oil Crisis

1. The oil-producing countries of Latin America **may** be a source of energy relief. \_\_\_\_\_
2. There are rumors that some countries **cannot** continue supplying oil as before. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Since the Chinese are now using more oil, this increase in oil consumption **will** reduce the natural reserves. \_\_\_\_\_
4. People **must** find a way to reduce oil consumption. \_\_\_\_\_
5. In the past, people **used to** rely on other means to move goods. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Countries such as Brazil and India **should** consider these problems before increasing their oil demands. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Many countries that **didn't have to** depend on oil before are now demanding more. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Some people in the United States **would rather** buy oil from places that are closer to home. \_\_\_\_\_
9. A pipeline in Colombia **could** help the country with international investors. \_\_\_\_\_
10. If there were an agreement among these Latin countries and the United States, there **would** be plenty of cheap oil to go around for a long time. \_\_\_\_\_