

# Advanced structures to express modality

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
EN\_BE\_3304X

LANGUAGE  
English

lingoda

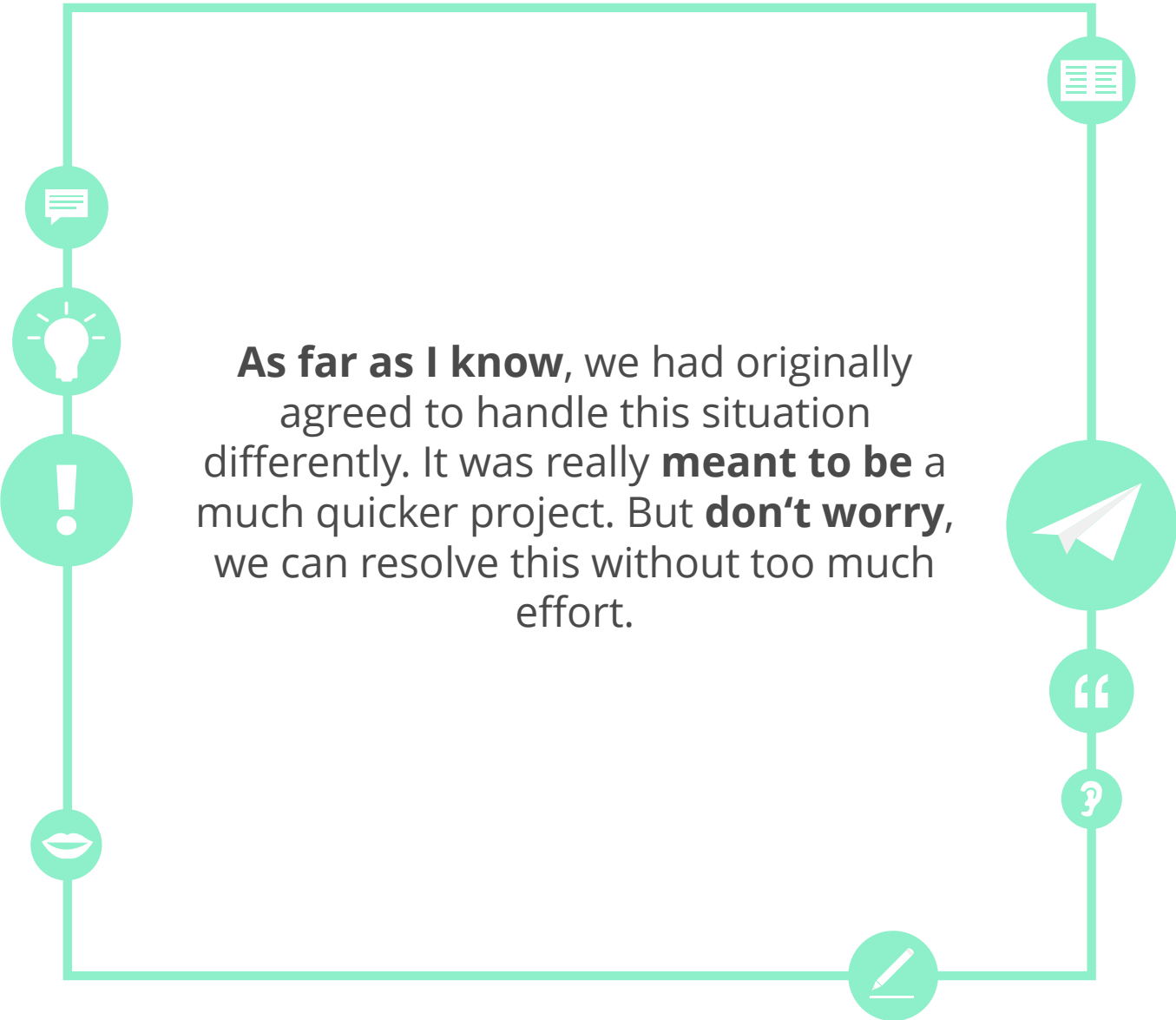




## Goals

- Can recognise and recall specific phrases to express obligation and reluctance.
- Can convincingly express obligation and reluctance in a wide variety of contexts.

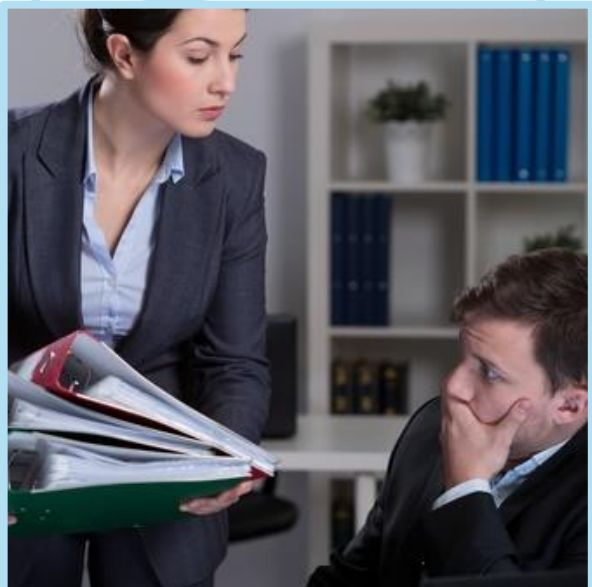




**As far as I know**, we had originally agreed to handle this situation differently. It was really **meant to be** a much quicker project. But **don't worry**, we can resolve this without too much effort.



I didn't want to but...



When was the last time you agreed to do something you didn't really want to do? Maybe a party you didn't really feel like going to, or a project you had to take on at work?

How do you normally **get out of** those kinds of **situations**?



## What do you already know?

**Read through the situations below and think of as many polite phrases and expressions as you can to express reluctance in each case.**

You've been invited to drinks after a long and tiring day at work.

Your friend has requested that you look after her very noisy dog for the weekend.

You've been asked to contribute to a work project that you don't want to be part of.

Your brother has asked you to help him paint his new house.



## Leadership skills

How do you feel when you have to take on the role of a **leader**?  
Are you **comfortable** in this position?

When was the last time you had to take on a **leadership role**?  
What were the challenges?



to force

To make someone do something they do not want to do.



His boss **forced** him to take on the extra work; now he has to work late for the next two weeks to finish in time.



## New words: necessity

to forbid

I **forbid** you to watch television this evening because you haven't finished your homework.



to require

We **require** a deposit for the flat. The amount is three times the rent.



to demand

They **demand**ed an explanation for his behaviour, which had been so out of order.



to oblige

If you want to apply for the position you are **obliged** to fill in an application form, submit 3 references and also provide copies of all your certificates.





## expressing necessity

You're probably already familiar with some of the verbs from the previous slides. We use these to express **necessity**.

**Necessity** is when **something is required** – when there is an important **need for something**.

However, we also have a lot of other words in English that help us to express necessity. For example, the adjectives **necessary**, **compulsory**, **obligatory**, and **essential**.

To apply for a new passport, you are required to pay €150 and provide the **obligatory** colour photographs.



## Work, work, work

Everybody has important responsibilities and obligations. What do you think the professionals in each picture would say their main duty is?

It's **essential** that I check my emails at least every hour!



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



## Verbs and adverbs of necessity

**You're about to be promoted and are therefore looking for someone to take over your position. A friend of yours is interested in applying.**

**Explain what they have to do to apply for your current job.  
Try to use the new words that you have learnt.**

Write a CV?

Go to an interview?

Apply for a working visa?

A vertical notepad with a blue binding on the left and several horizontal lines for writing.



## New job

Good news: your friend got the job!

Now explain what is **required** of them in the new role. What are the **essential** tasks that they have to do?





## New job

**It's your friend's first day at the office.  
Are there any rules they should know about? Is there anything  
they are obliged to do or forbidden from doing?**



participate in an  
induction talk

no pets allowed  
in the office

overtime later  
than 7.30 p.m.  
not allowed

fill out a form for  
HR

## expressing obligation and reluctance in spoken English

You're probably already familiar with the adverbs **certainly**, **surely** and **definitely** but there are also a wide variety of expressions that we use in spoken English to express **obligation**.

It's really useful to be able to use these expressions as you will hear them used a lot by native speakers!

Are you coming to Jade's party on Tuesday?  
**For sure!** I wouldn't miss it for the world!



## Expressing obligation and reluctance in spoken English

**for sure**

Will you be able to finish the report by Monday?  
**For sure**, I've got all week to work on it!



**without a doubt**

Do you think you can be there at 7 p.m.? The show starts at 7:15 p.m.  
Don't worry, I'll be there at 7, **without a doubt**.



**for certain**

Are we going on holiday next week?  
I don't know **for certain**.



**not necessarily**

I heard that if you want to get a job in marketing it's essential to have a marketing degree.  
**Not necessarily** – a lot of employers really value work experience as well.





## Expressing obligation and reluctance in spoken English

**to be meant to**

He **was meant to be** at the party at 8 p.m. but he phoned to say he's running late.



**to be supposed to**

**You're supposed to** bake the cake for 45 minutes but I forgot and left it in the oven for an hour.



**to be bound to**

**It's bound to** stop raining at some point today, so let's wait until then before we go out.



**to be sure to**

**Be sure to** let me know if you need any help with the move on Saturday.







## Practise time

**Practise making your own sentences with the expressions below. Here are some verbs to help give you ideas for sentences: *come, give, arrive, call, tell, wait, stay, expect.***

to be meant to

to be supposed to

to be bound to

to be sure to



**Read through the dialogue. Fill in the missing part and then continue the conversation with your teacher.**



Maria – finally! Have you looked at the time? You were meant to be here over forty minutes ago!

It's fine! I kept reassuring myself you were bound to turn up sooner or later. I panicked a bit when you didn't answer your phone – it's so unlike you.

Oh, I see. That's certainly not something you want to leave to the last minute.

Sorry, Josie! Sorry, sorry, sorry – something crazy came up!

I know. I was on my way out the door when I realised I was supposed to \_\_\_\_\_.



## Over to you

You get a phone call from a friend of yours. They are angry because they arranged to have dinner with a colleague at 6 p.m., but now the colleague won't be free until 8.

Try to calm your friend down while using the phrases you have learnt.





## Over to you



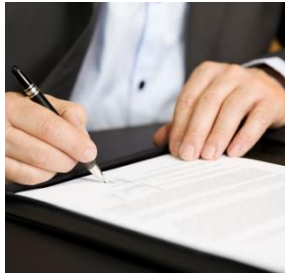
Oh dear, the same friend has called you and they are stressed again. This time it's because they haven't yet heard back from a job interview.

How can you reassure them?  
Use the new expressions!

## expressing reluctance and politely disagreeing

Often, we might not agree entirely with what someone has said, but it can be awkward or inappropriate to respond **bluntly**.

Luckily there are lots of ways in English to **express reluctance** and establish a certain distance between ourselves and what the speaker has said.



**If I remember correctly**, it was actually my idea to involve Paul in the project.



I think it's a good idea **on the whole** but we definitely have to alter some of the details before we proceed.



## Expressing reluctance and politely disagreeing

**to a large extent**

**To a large extent**, Pete would be the better candidate since he has much more experience.



**as far as I'm concerned**

**As far as I'm concerned** it's none of her business – it's my decision, not hers.



**as a rule**

**As a rule** we don't accept late applications, but we will make an exception given the exceptional circumstances.



**if I am not mistaken**

**If I am not mistaken**, it was actually Jill's responsibility to check the documents before they were sent.





## A difficult day at work

Paul, Judy and Simon are in a meeting together. Judy has some issues with a project that the team are working on. She begins to speak:

**To some extent** I think Simon has a point; we do need to make sure the launch party impresses people, but I just don't think we need to use so much of our budget for just one night. **I would even go so far as to say** it might be a waste of money. **As a rule** we tend to spend about £20 a head on these events and I don't see any reason to increase that budget for this one evening. **In a sense**, I can see how it might pay off but **as a rule** it's just too risky for us to entertain that kind of marketing strategy. **As far as I know**, we just don't have the budget for it.

Read the above text with your teacher, paying special attention to the structures highlighted in bold. Do you understand them?  
What do you think the meeting is about? Summarise it for your teacher.



## Imagine the dialogue

**You are Simon and you are still in the meeting with Judy and Paul. Judy has just made her point about the launch party budget, but you feel strongly about your own point of view. Respond to Judy's point and imagine the dialogue that would have taken place between them.**



Those are some great points, Judy, but I just want to take a minute to explain my understanding of the budget. If I'm not mistaken...

I see what you're saying, Simon, but as a rule...



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## Your turn!

Use the following expressions to respond to each of the situations below: *to some extent, I would even go so far as to say, as far as I know, in a sense.*



Your boss doesn't want to give you a pay rise.

A client wants to book a meeting tomorrow but no one has time to see them.

Your flatmate is angry because you don't do enough housework.

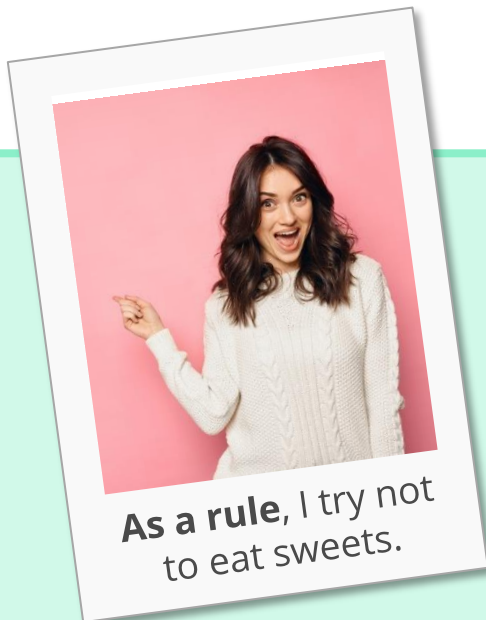
A colleague thinks it's your turn to phone a difficult client. It's not.

Everyone, including you, thinks Jo is coming to the party.

A friend knows you know a lot about Japan and asks if it's pretty in springtime.



## How many expressions...



How many expressions can you remember from this lesson?

Say an expression and your classmates or teacher must guess what you are trying to express.

Student A: **As far as I'm concerned**, it's none of his business anymore.  
Student B: She is expressing reluctance and politely disagreeing.



## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







## Homework evaluation activity

**How did you find this lesson?**  
**Which parts did you find most challenging?**  
**Which parts did you like the most?**  
**Which parts were easiest?**

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## Homework writing activity

**Write a dialogue between two work colleagues where one of them is reluctant to agree to what is being asked of them. Use as much of the new vocabulary from this lesson as you can!**

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