

Modals

(Wilson ch. 19)

<i>dürfen</i>	may , be permitted; often used to express academic opinions; <i>nicht dürfen</i> must not , cannot
<i>können</i>	can, be able ; be possible; should, have reason to; (as a regular verb: know, know how to)
<i>mögen</i>	could ; may (admissive); be permitted; want, desire; (as a regular verb: like)
<i>müssen</i>	must , have to
<i>sollen</i>	should , be supposed to; be said to (reported speech); will (future), translate ‘be to [do sth]’
<i>wollen</i>	want , intend; reported action by the agent’s report (<i>er will gesehen haben</i> ‘he says he saw’)

The Passive

(Wilson chs. 28-9)

The following constructions normally carry a passive sense:

1. the ‘real’ passive: *werden* + [past participle]: *es wurde gesehen* ‘it was seen’
(beware of other senses of *werden*, namely ‘become’ and as an auxiliary forming the future)
2. (often) constructions with *man* as subject: *man hat es nicht verstanden* ‘it was not understood’
3. Constructions with:
 - a) *sich lassen* *er hat sich tragen lassen* ‘he let himself be carried’
 - b) *sich befinden* *Das Hotel befindet sich in unmittelbarer Nähe zum Bahnhof*
‘the hotel is situated in the immediate vicinity of the railway station’
 - c) *sich finden* *Nur selten findet sich ein überraschender Befund*
‘A surprising find is only rarely made’
 - d) *gelten* *Das römische Recht galt als Weltrecht*
‘Roman law was considered global law’
 - e) *heissen* ‘be called; be said’ (not in its other senses ‘mean,’ ‘command,’ and ‘hoist’)
 - f) any of the modals listed above with a sense ‘be permitted/possible/supposed to/said to’

The ‘fake’ passive, *sein* + [past participle], verges on a passive form. However, it presents no difficulties for translation, as it can be translated word for word: *die Tür ist geschlossen* ‘the door is shut.’