

## C. Analyzing Modal Particle Usage

### Answer Key 5: Analyzing Modal Particles in Context: *mal*

- I. 1. The finite verb is expressed by:
  - a) forms of the verb *werden* in lines 27, 31, 33 (indicative mood) and 23, 34 (subjunctive mood)
  - b) forms of modal verbs *sollen, müssen, mögen, können* in lines 24, 25, 29, 35, 37, 38
  - c) imperative verb forms *sag, fang* in lines 28, 36, 39
2. Writers refer to the future in all of these examples.
3. The subject is expressed only by pronouns:
  - a) personal pronoun *ich* (lines 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 34, 38)
  - b) personal pronoun *du* (lines 24, 26, 32, 39)
  - c) personal pronoun *wir* (line 37)
  - d) indefinite pronoun *man* (lines 30, 35)
4. The MP *mal* is used in various sentence types:
  - a) imperatives (lines 28, 36, 39)
  - b) question (line 32)
  - c) declaratives: statements and exclamations (all other lines)
5. By using utterances containing *mal*, the writers perform *communicative actions* of:
  - a) expressing an intention (lines 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 37, and 38)
  - b) requesting/suggesting (lines 24, 28, 36)
6. The MP *mal* immediately follows:
  - a) adverbs in lines 23-27, 31, 33, 37:
    - modal (*gern, wirklich, unbedingt*)
    - temporal (*dann, gleich*)
    - logical (*auch*)
  - b) the modal particle *doch* in line 39.
7. The information about the use of the MP *mal* based on 1-6 can be summarized as follows:

The modal particle *mal* occurs in all sentence types, but only if the content of the sentence is related to the future (requests/commands, expression of intentions, direct and indirect requests). The modal particle *mal* frequently goes together with personal pronouns (e.g. *ich, du, wir*), modal verbs (e.g. *können, müssen*) and verb forms in the subjunctive mood (e.g. *würde, hätte*), as well as with adverbs (e.g. *gern, gleich, auch*)

**II.** 1. The pattern can be completed as follows:

imperative verb form + *mal*

2. This perform performs the function of a softened request/command

3. *Moment mal* ('just a moment') is a formulaic shortened form of *Warte mal einen Moment* (line 109) ('wait just a moment').