

Mood and Modality: A Pair Apart
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The talk traces the current understanding of mood (or mode) and modality back in time, in the Western tradition, giving pride of place to F.R. Palmer, G.H. von Wright, I. Kant, Priscian, Quintilian, Dionysius Thrax, Apollonius Dyscolus, and Protagoras. It sketches how there were and still are at least three different notions of mood, the domain of which was progressively taken over by a notion of modality. It shows that the confusion that characterizes current thinking is not exceptional and that one can learn from the earlier confusions.