

IES “NOSA SEÑORA DOS OLLOS GRANDES”
Department of English

JCGL

ADVANCED

Greenbaum, S. *et al.* (1990) *A Student's Grammar of the English Language*, Harlow :
Longman

Quirk, R. *et al.* (1985) *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*, London and
New York: Longman

MODAL IDIOMS

TO BE *TO*

This category of verbs expresses modal or aspectual meaning. They are intermediate between auxiliaries and main verbs.

TO BE + To-Inf. is an idiom which is used to refer to

1. A future arrangement or plan.

Their daughter is to be married soon.

2. A future requirement.

You are to be back by 10 o'clock.

3. Intention.

If he's to succeed in his new profession, he must try harder.

NOTE. The future meaning of TO BE *TO* is particularly emphasized when it is accompanied by *still* or *yet*.

The most severe weather is yet / still to come.

The implication here is negative: “has not yet come.”

NOTE. TO BE *TO* must not be confused with an apparently identical construction in which the copula BE is followed by a nominal or adverbial infinitive clause.

The problem is to find a solution.