

EXERCISE 9

Read the information again. Then choose the correct modal verbs to complete the sentences.

Can, could, may and might

Talking about ability

- Present: *can / can't*
- Past: *could / couldn't*
- Future: *will be able to / won't be able to*

Asking for permission

- Formal: *May / Could I / we ... ?*
- Less formal: *Can I / we ... ?*

Giving permission (saying 'yes') and refusing permission (saying 'no')

- Very formal: *You may / may not ...*
- Less formal: *You can / can't ...*

Asking for help

- Formal: *Could you ... ?*
- Less formal: *Can you ... ?*

Offering help

- *I can ... / Can I (help) ... ?*

Talking about things that aren't certain in the future

- Positive: *It may / might / could happen.*
- Negative: *It may not happen / It might not happen.*

1. Do you/May I /Will I be able to have your autograph, please?
2. I'm sure I may not/might/ won't be able to get into the concert tomorrow without a ticket.
3. Let's go to the party – it can/couldn't/might be quite good.
4. I'm afraid you can't/couldn't/might not take photos inside the cinema – it's against the rules.
5. When the film star said 'Hello', I couldn't/might not/ won't be able to think of anything to say, so I just smiled.
6. I know lots of famous sports stars. I can / I'll be able to / I may not get you their autographs if you like.
7. Could/May/Might you be quiet, please? I'm trying to listen to the radio.
8. I'm not sure about my plans for next weekend. I couldn't/ might not/ won't be able do anything.
9. The TV programme is on again tomorrow evening, so if you miss it tonight, you may/you could/ you'll be able to watch it tomorrow. _____