

EXERCISE 3 PRESENT AND PAST MODALS

GRAMMAR NOTES 2-5 Read the article about past cultures. Complete the sentences with past and present modal or modal-like verbs, using the words in parentheses.

WORLD REVIEW

Have you ever heard of the Anasazi and the Mayans? Both were once great civilizations, but they no longer exist today. Why? There are a number of possible explanations.

First, let's consider the ancient Pueblo people of the U.S. Southwest, called the Anasazi or "ancient ones" by the Navajo. Scholars think that these people may have settled ^{1. (may / settle)} in about 100 B.C.E. in the Four Corners area, where today the states of Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico come together. We know from the evidence of artifacts and ruins that the Anasazi developed agriculture and built impressive cities and cliff dwellings. About the year 1300, though, something happened. The Anasazi abandoned their dwellings and deserted the region. What could / cause ^{2. (could / cause)} this? Drought? Warfare? No one knows for sure. However, these people could / not / disappear ^{3. (could / not / disappear)} completely. Anthropologists believe that they had to / migrate ^{4. (had to / migrate)} to the Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico and the White Mountains in Arizona. They assume that today's Pueblo peoples in the Southwest must / be ^{5. (must / be)} their descendants. This means that descendants of the Anasazi might / still / walk ^{6. (might / still / walk)} the earth. Even if they are, we still don't know what might / bring ^{7. (might / bring)} an end to the Anasazi's flourishing culture.



Thousands of years ago, the Mayan people dominated large parts of Mexico and Central America. Their culture was technologically advanced, and they built huge cities with elaborate stone palaces and pyramids. Then suddenly, around the year 900 C.E., most of the Mayans abandoned their cities, and the great Mayan civilization collapsed. Nobody knows the reason for this mysterious decline, though scholars have developed several competing theories. One theory holds that by the ninth century, the Mayan population must / grow ^{8. (must / grow)} so large that it could no longer be supported by agriculture. In other words, the Mayans may / leave ^{9. (may / leave)} their cities because they ran out of food. Another idea is that Mayan society might / collapse ^{10. (might / collapse)} because the different Mayan city-states were constantly warring with each other. In addition, some scholars claim that an environmental disaster, such as a drought, could / occur ^{11. (could / occur)}. Mayan cities had to / be ^{12. (had to / be)} dependent on rain for their water supply, and without it, they must / struggle ^{13. (must / struggle)} to survive ... and eventually lost the struggle. And finally, other experts believe that all three of these factors may / play ^{14. (may / play)} a part in the Mayan downfall.