

# GRAMMAR: MODALS

ability, permission and advice



## INTRODUCTION:

### can

ability: Mary **can** play the guitar

permission: My mum says I **can** go to the party

### could

ability: In the summer I **could** go to the beach every day

permission: The doctor said I **couldn't** go swimming for a month

### ought to

advice: You **ought to** be more careful with your money

### should

advice: We **should** all drink more water

### will be able to

ability: I **will be able to** play the piano, if I keep practicing

Choose the correct modal verb of ability, permission or advice:

1. In some years, people <b>can/ will be able to</b> travel to space for fun.	5. You <b>can/ should</b> use your calendar more so you don't forget things.
2. If I tidy my room I <b>can/ could</b> go to the party tonight.	6. Jeremy <b>can/ ought to</b> draw very well.
3. Psychologists say we ' <b>ll be able to/ ought to</b> focus more on our positive experiences.	7. My father said I <b>ought to/ could</b> eat some ice-cream after I finished my vegetables.
4. When I was younger I <b>should/ could</b> do a handstand.	8. If you practice a lot, you <b>can/ will be able to</b> play the piano very well in no time!

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## ability, permission and advice



Match the modal verb of ability, permission or advice with its use:

1. I **could** paint well when I was eight. -

A) ability in the present

2. I'll **be able to** stay out on Saturday. -

B) ability in the past

3. You **shouldn't** be sad. -

C) ability in the future

4. I **can** remember the lyrics to that song. -

D) advice to do something

5. You **can** work in the library until 6 p.m. -

E) advice not to do something

6. Caroline **ought to** stop using social media. -

F) permission in the present

Complete the sentences with the correct modal verb of ability, permission or advice (can/can't, could/couldn't, should, ought to, will be able to):

1. Ten years ago, I \_\_\_\_\_ run very fast.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ you go to the party tonight?

2. Where \_\_\_\_\_ we have lunch today: at home or in a restaurant?

6. She \_\_\_\_\_ finish her homework last night.

2. When I'm 18, I \_\_\_\_\_ drive a car.

8. My doctor says that I \_\_\_\_\_ do more exercise.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ you hear the music right now?

7. Elena \_\_\_\_\_ dance very well.

4. Tyler \_\_\_\_\_ swim.

8. I \_\_\_\_\_ hear you. Could you speak louder, please?