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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

GRAMMAR: MODALS

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?

LIVEWORKSHEETS