

GRAMMAR **Modal verbs for ability****Present***She can/can't paint.**They're able to/aren't able to read quickly.***Past***I could/couldn't follow the plot.**Jack was/wasn't able to go to the library.**He managed/didn't manage to read the book in a day.***Future***I'll be/won't be able to finish this today.***Questions***Can/Could he paint? No, he can't/couldn't.**Is/Was she able to read quickly? Yes, she is/was.**Will you be able to read more books? No, I won't.**Did he manage to finish the book? Yes, he did.***Use**We use *could* to describe general ability in the past.We use *managed to* to describe specific achievements in the past.**1** Match the sentence halves.

- 1  I couldn't  
 2  Sheila can  
 3  Unfortunately, Keith won't  
 4  Will you be able  
 5  We can't  
 6  I managed  
 a read in five languages!  
 b offer you a place at our college, I'm afraid.  
 c understand the French film – they all spoke very fast.  
 d to find the book you wanted.  
 e to finish the book this week?  
 f be able to come to the party.

**2** Choose the correct option.

- 1  Were / Did you able to ride a bike when you were five?  
 2 Ben and Eve won't be able / able to come to the play.  
 3 Can you write / to write poetry?  
 4 I managed to read / reading fifteen books over the summer!  
 5 The theatre was so full of people that I couldn't / could see the stage.  
 6 I started writing a novel, but I didn't manage / manage to finish it.

**3** Choose the word or phrase which does NOT fit each sentence.

- 1  to speak to your mum last night?  
 a Did you manage      b Were you able  
 c Could you  
 2 I  post that package for you – sorry.  
 a can't                      b managed to  
 c won't be able to  
 3 I  read when I was three, but only slowly.  
 a can                              b could  
 c was able to  
 4 I  drive, but I'm taking lessons.  
 a can't                              b 'm not able to  
 c managed to  
 5 The book was difficult to follow, but I  finish it.  
 a couldn't                              b was able to  
 c managed to

**4** Complete the text with one word in each gap.

Thank you, Ms Palmer!

When I was younger, I wasn't very good at anything. I couldn't swim, I wasn't <sup>1</sup>able to read very well and I <sup>2</sup> n't ride a bike on my own until I was twelve! People used to ask me things like, <sup>3</sup> you say "thank you" in French? and I just looked down and felt embarrassed. The problem was I just didn't have any confidence.

I <sup>4</sup> able to do these things if I really tried, but I didn't believe I could.

Then a new French teacher came to our school. Her name was Ms Palmer and she gave me lots of attention. She really encouraged me and said things like, 'If you <sup>5</sup> to read this text, I'll let you play that French game on your tablet for ten minutes.' It worked, and not only did my French improve, but now I <sup>6</sup> able to do lots of other things and I feel more confident too. Next year, I'm hoping I will <sup>7</sup> able to learn Spanish and Italian too. Merci beaucoup, Ms Palmer!

## GRAMMAR

## Modal verbs for obligation and prohibition

## Obligation

You **must/have to** read. Do/Did/Will you **have to** read?  
 They **had to** read. Yes, I **do/did/will**.

I **will have to** read.

## Lack of obligation

You **don't have to** come. She **didn't have to** come.  
 He **won't have to** come.

## Prohibition

You **can't** go.  
 You **mustn't/aren't allowed to** go.  
 I **wasn't allowed to** go.  
 He **won't be allowed to** go.  
 Are/Were you **allowed to** stay late?  
 Will you **be allowed to** stay late?

Must and mustn't don't have past or future forms. We use **had to** or **will have to** instead. In question forms, we usually use **have to**.

- 1 ● Decide if the meanings of the sentences are similar (S) or different (D).

- 1 You must do your homework tonight.  
 You have to do your homework tonight.
- 2 Jake had to wear a shirt.  
 Jake was allowed to wear a shirt.
- 3 It's important that they don't leave any litter.  
 They mustn't leave any litter.
- 4 We won't have to pay for it.  
 It won't be necessary for us to pay for it.

- 2 ●● Complete the text with the words below.

allowed aren't don't must mustn't

There's an unusual exhibition on at the art gallery in town. You **1 don't** have to pay anything, but you can if you want to. The exhibition is interesting because you are **2** to touch the pieces in the gallery. You can pick them up, throw them around, even break them! But you **3** allowed to say bad things about them. At the end you can even write your opinion of the exhibition in a little book, but of course it **4** be something positive. And you **5** write more than three words. It's quite weird, but interesting, I think.

- 3 ●● Complete the second sentence with the word in bold so that it means the same as the first one. Use no more than five words.

- 1 I'll have to go to bed early tonight. ALLOWED  
 I **won't be allowed** to stay up late tonight.
- 2 To do this activity, you have to ask three other students the questions. MUST  
 To do this activity, you **\_\_\_\_\_** three other students the questions.
- 3 They didn't have to leave. WERE  
 They **\_\_\_\_\_** stay.
- 4 You mustn't talk during the presentation. ALLOWED  
 You **\_\_\_\_\_** during the presentation.
- 5 Were you allowed to go out on your own when you were younger? HAVE  
**\_\_\_\_\_** go out with an adult when you were younger?

- 4 ●●● Complete the blog post with one word in each gap.

## A TALE OF TWO SCHOOLS

My last school was very unusual because there were almost no rules. We were **1 allowed** to wear what we wanted (there was no uniform) and we did **2** have to do any homework. In fact, we didn't **3** to go to class if we didn't want to! But we **4** to respect each other and no fighting or bullying was allowed.

My new school is completely the opposite. We **5** do all our homework and if we don't do it, we **6** to do double homework as a punishment. We **7** not allowed to wear anything we want - we have **8** wear a school uniform. But they are thinking about changing this rule next year, so we won't have **9** wear specific clothes. But we will still **10** to dress in smart clothes - we won't **11** allowed to wear jeans and trainers, for example.