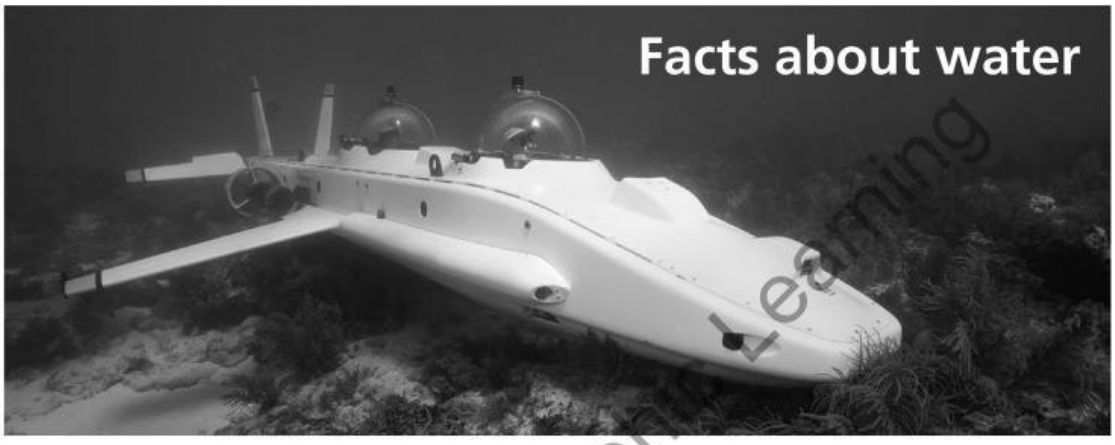
UNIT

11 Grammar 2 *Can, could,* and *be able to*

A Read the fact file. Then complete the facts with *can* (✓), *can't* (✗), *could* (✓), *couldn't* (✗), *will be able to* (✓), or *won't be able to* (✗).



✓ Using current technology, humans [1]_____ now travel to the deepest point underwater in the world.

✗ Scuba divers who have only passed a beginner's course [2]_____ dive deeper underwater than 18 meters.

✓ The *S.S. United States* was the fastest ocean liner ever. In the 1950s, it [3]_____ cross the Atlantic Ocean in about three and a half days.

✓ Christopher Columbus was a famous explorer who sailed to the Americas in the 1490s. Unusually, he [4]_____ swim very well. In fact, he once swam to safety from a burning ship.

✓ Under-sixteens [5]_____ take part in swimming events at the next Olympics. Some sports ban under-sixteens—gymnastics, for example—but not swimming.

✓ Experts predict that one day, in the future, swimmers [6]_____ swim faster than 7.7 kilometers per hour. Currently, around 7.7 kilometers per hour is the fastest recorded time—so it's likely that somebody will go faster.

✗ Women [7]_____ compete in swimming events at the first Olympics in 1896. In fact, they weren't allowed to compete in swimming until 1912.

✗ You [8]_____ drink even 1% of the water on Earth during your life.

✗ An average person [9]_____ safely drink more than a liter of water every hour.

✗ Imagine that, starting now, a human being has no water to drink—he or she [10]_____ survive until the end of the week.

B Which fact did you find the most surprising? Tell your partner.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

UNIT 12

Grammar 2 Modals of prediction and possibility

A Complete the technology predictions for 2050 with *will, won't, could, might,* or *may*. Use *probably* when you can. Sometimes there is more than one possible answer.

My technology predictions for 2050

The Home

I'm sure that all the simple jobs like washing dishes and cleaning the house [1]_____ be automated. We [2]_____ use robots that are built for a particular job, or I guess we [3]_____ have larger, functional robots that can do a lot of jobs. I think this is less likely, however.

I'm certain that the home [4]_____ become a system with different parts that communicate with each other. Humans [5]_____ have to do any jobs about the house ever again! In fact, I'm almost certain of that!

Travel

There [6]_____ be any gas cars. It's not certain, but it is likely that governments [7]_____ make them illegal. And I think there [8]_____ be more driverless electric cars than regular ones—but that's just my opinion. I [9]_____ be right. Who knows?

Shopping

In the future, stores [10]_____ exist. No stores—imagine! It is a real possibility, but not at all certain. Actually, I think there [11]_____ be fewer stores and malls, but there [12]_____ definitely be some.

B Discuss the predictions with a partner. Which do you agree with? What are your predictions for home, travel, and shopping?

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