

## MODALS AND PHRASES OF ABILITY

**A: Drag the phrases in the box to complete the spaces in the reading.**

can swim could all swim couldn't swim couldn't walk  
didn't manage to was able to jump was able to stand  
needed to be able to be able to managed to climb

When I was a young child, I <sup>1</sup> couldn't swim – I only learnt to swim when I was about 14. I guess I thought that I didn't need <sup>2</sup> to swim, because I never went to swimming pools. But one day I went for a walk on a hill near the sea with my friends – we were about 13 at the time. Part of the path was missing in one place – we <sup>3</sup> walked along it, so we decided to try to jump across. My friend Andy was quite big, so he <sup>4</sup> jumped across it very easily. But then it was my turn – I was a lot smaller, so I <sup>5</sup> couldn't jump across. I fell down the hill and into the sea. My friends <sup>6</sup> laughed, so they thought it was really funny to see me in the water, but I was really scared. Luckily, I <sup>7</sup> swam on a rock under the water and then I <sup>8</sup> climbed out of the water. After that, I knew I <sup>9</sup> needed to swim, so I started going to swimming lessons every week. And now I <sup>10</sup> swim really well.

**B. Choose the correct options. If both are possible, choose both.**

1. I went to India last year but I **cannot / could not** take any pictures because my camera was broken.
2. **He has been able to swim/ He can swim** since he was a child.
3. When they were children, they **could/ were able to** run really fast.
4. She tried to read War and Peace but she **wasn't able to / didn't manage** to finish it.
5. He **managed to / could** climb trees when he was a boy, but he **can't/couldn't** climb them now.

6. Katya needs to **can / be able to** speak Japanese in her new job.
7. You will **can / be able to** find a new person for the job soon, I'm sure.
8. I'm scared of **not being able to / can't** pass my exam tomorrow.
9. They **couldn't / didn't manage to** find a parking place.
10. I think everyone should **manage to / be able to** drive. It's an important skill.