

# 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> \_\_\_\_\_ 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> \_\_\_\_\_ along it, so we decided to try to jump across. My friend Andy was quite big, so he <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ across it very easily. But then it was my turn – I was a lot smaller, so I <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ jump across. I fell down the hill and into the sea. My friends <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, so they thought it was really funny to see me in the water, but I was really scared. Luckily, I <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ on a rock under the water and then I <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ out of the water. After that, I knew I <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to swim, so I started going to swimming lessons every week. And now I <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 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.