


9A

Grammar 1 Past modals of deduction

- 1 Read the puzzle. What do you think the answer is? Read the conversation in Exercise 2 to check your ideas.

WHICH PILL?



The spy, caught by her enemy, woke up in a darkened room. The man guarding her told her he wouldn't kill her, but would make her an offer instead. 'I have two pills' he said. 'One pill contains fatal poison, the other does not. You choose one pill, and I'll take the other.' He pushed a red pill and a blue pill towards the spy, along with a glass of water. She confidently grabbed one of them, popped it in her mouth and swallowed it. But which pill did the spy take and why?

- 2 Complete the conversation with the past modal form of the verbs in brackets.

- A: OK, so which pill do you think the spy ¹ _____ (*might have chosen*) (might / choose)?
- B: I think she ² _____ (may / grab) the blue one. Red seems a dangerous colour to me.
- A: I think that's too obvious. The colour ³ _____ (could / be) a red herring.
- B: The spy ⁴ _____ (might / realise) the situation was hopeless and not even cared if she was poisoned.
- A: It still doesn't make sense. The guard ⁵ _____ (couldn't / know) which pill the spy was going to choose, so why would he take the risk of having to eat the other one?
- B: The guard ⁶ _____ (may / plan) to secretly swap whichever pill the spy chose for a poisoned one.
- A: But the spy grabbed the pill so quickly, surely he ⁷ _____ (couldn't / swap) them.
- B: Still, we don't know whether the guard is telling the truth about the poison. The pills ⁸ _____ (may not / contain) any poison at all.
- A: That's it! The poison ⁹ _____ (must / be) in the glass of water instead!
- B: Yeah, so the spy ¹⁰ _____ (could / take) either pill. What's important is that she didn't drink any of the water.

Complete the opinion piece with the words in the box.

accounted for clues evidence hoax identifies motives red herring
remain a mystery turns out victim

Don't give me any ¹ _____ !	Your rating
<p>Personally, I like what happens in a film or series to ² _____ until I watch it for myself. Here's a list of things I can't stand:</p>	
<p>① Advertisements for a film or series There's usually far too much ³ _____ about what's going to happen. For example, the advertisement shows the best dramatic action scene, or ⁴ _____ which characters will fall in love.</p>	
<p>② The friend who tells you everything They don't have bad ⁵ _____, but they talk through all the details of a film or series you want to watch before you can stop them.</p>	
<p>③ Someone says there's a surprise They haven't ⁶ _____ the fact that knowing to expect the unexpected completely changes the way you experience the plot.</p>	
<p>④ Reviews which falsely promise not to give details Often, they still indicate how everything ⁷ _____ in the end with phrases like 'a very encouraging film' or 'a depressing tale'.</p>	
<p>⑤ A silly ⁸ _____ This is when someone tells you something which is a complete ⁹ _____ 'Keep an eye on the cat.' or 'The real ¹⁰ _____ isn't who you think.' It's so annoying because you spend the whole film looking for the fake detail instead of enjoying the story!</p>	

1 Complete the posts about hiccups with the phrases in the box.

drinking getting me to feel
me to frighten myself sitting
people giving me that I will give
that you will get the hiccups stop
you that you to you to tell



Original post

Sharat

21 July

I can't stand ¹ _____ hiccups. I'm asking
² _____ me your very best cures please!
#hiccups #goaway #advice

Replies

Kari

21 July

I don't mind ³ _____ a fright to try to make them go away.
Obviously, you can't expect ⁴ _____ you online though – sorry!

Alan

21 July

I guarantee ⁵ _____ rid of your hiccups if you close your eyes,
press your upper lip and count to ten. I can assure ⁶ _____
it works every time!

Mara

21 July

I would advise ⁷ _____ have a glass of water. I'd recommend
⁸ _____ it as quickly as you can.

Osman

22 July

I imagine ⁹ _____ by a cool blue lake. It helps
¹⁰ _____ calm and the hiccups usually go.

Leta

22 July

Being offered money can make ¹¹ _____ ! Sharat, I promise
¹² _____ you a pound if you can call me and hiccup
on the phone!

Choose the correct alternatives to complete the rules.

Rules for fans



- 1 If you _____, the number one rule is to show respect.
a come across a celebrity b come a celebrity across
- 2 _____ that many celebrities don't mind a quick chat, as long as fans are polite!
a Turns it out b Turns out
- 3 _____ before you post a celebrity's current location on social media, they might not appreciate it.
a Think through it b Think it through
- 4 Try to _____ whether it's appropriate to approach them. Perhaps smile and try and make eye contact.
a figure out b figure it out
- 5 If the celebrity is trying to _____, be prepared that they may not want a photo.
a get on with life b get on life with
- 6 Don't take it personally if the celebrity isn't willing to talk. They have to _____ sometimes or they wouldn't have any privacy.
a let down people b let people down
- 7 If you're going to a 'meet and greet' event, there may be a long queue. Be ready to _____ for some time.
a stick it out b stick out it
- 8 Don't talk about the celebrity like they can't hear you! _____ as really rude!
a It comes across b Comes it across
- 9 _____ ahead of time. For example, ask about their work or what inspires them.
a Come up a few things to say with b Come up with a few things to say
- 10 Avoid asking about personal details. For example, if you've read the celebrity is _____ - don't ask about it!
a getting over a break up b getting a break up over