

1 Match the functions (A–E) in the box to the sentences.

A ability B advice C deduction / speculation
D obligation E permission

- Trina **was able to** make a quick decision about the new job. A
- Fred probably **shouldn't have** left school when he was 16. _____
- They've been talking for hours. Surely they **must have** come to a decision. _____
- We **could** only have ice cream if we finished our main course. _____
- I **didn't have to** choose which university until I got my results. _____
- With a bit more luck, Manchester United **could have** won. _____
- Did you **manage to** finish your project? _____
- I **wasn't allowed to** take a gap year. My parents wouldn't let me. _____

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of *could* or *manage to*.

- It was hard work, but I managed to finish my assignment just before the deadline.
- Lukas _____ tennis quite well before he got that shoulder injury.
- _____ Louise _____ find the book she was looking for?
- People always told me I _____ sing well, but I thought I sounded terrible.
- _____ you swim when you were four years old?
- On Sunday Sam _____ complete the marathon and set a new personal best.
- This is your new car? I thought you _____ drive?

3 Are the sentences correct (✓) or incorrect (X)? Correct the mistakes.

-  ~~Could you~~ change your train tickets yesterday?
X - Did you manage to
- I'm looking for my coat. I think someone can take it by mistake last night. _____
- I wasn't allowed to wear earrings till I was ten.

- It wasn't my fault, so it should have been yours.

- When we got to the wood, we must put up our tents.

- Kelly ought not to have rushed; she had time.

- You couldn't see Alice yesterday because she was still in France. _____

4 Rewrite the second sentence in each pair in the positive and make any other changes so that the meaning stays the same. You may need to use a different modal.

- We shouldn't have left the hotel so late.
We should've left the hotel earlier.
- We weren't allowed to throw balls in the house, only in the garden.

- I couldn't understand all of the text.

- She shouldn't have been so rude to you.

- The accident can't have happened before 6 pm.

- The kids didn't have to pay, only the adults.

- Ben couldn't run any further than two kilometres yesterday.

- I ought not to have eaten so much.

5 Complete the conversation with a past or present modal and one of the verbs in the box. Use a different modal for each space.

be be sent check go press ~~print-off~~ put
read use

- Greg:** ¹ Were you able to print off your university application form yesterday? You said your printer wasn't working properly.
- Jonathan:** Yes. My mum said I ² _____ the printer at her office, so I did it there. But I think I ³ _____ it in a folder to keep it flat. Look, it's all creased now.
- Greg:** Wait, it says there that your name is JJonathan.
- Jonathan:** Oh no! I ⁴ _____ the 'J' button twice by mistake.
- Greg:** I think you ⁵ _____ that it was all correct before you printed it! Hang on. Look what it says there: All application forms ⁶ _____ also _____ via email to the following address...
- Jonathan:** Are you telling me that I ⁷ _____ even _____ to my mum's office and print it? I ⁸ _____ probably _____ the instructions better in future.
- Greg:** I don't understand why it isn't all done by email. I mean, it ⁹ _____ quicker than sorting through lots of paper.

1

- 2 B
- 3 C
- 4 E
- 5 D
- 6 C
- 7 A
- 8 E

2

- 2 could
- 3 Did (Louise) manage to
- 4 could
- 5 could
- 6 managed to
- 7 couldn't

3

- 2 ~~X, can~~, might /may /could have
- 3 ✓
- 4 ~~X, should~~, must
- 5 ~~X, must~~, had to
- 6 ✓
- 7 ~~X, couldn't see~~, couldn't have seen

4

- 2 We could / were allowed to throw balls in the garden (but not in the house).
- 3 I was able to/managed to understand part(s)/some of the text.
- 4 She should've been nicer to you.
- 5 The accident must've happened after 6 pm.
- 6 The adults had to pay (but the kids didn't).
- 7 Ben managed to/was able to run two kilometres yesterday.
- 8 I ought to have eaten (a bit) less.

5

- 2 could / was allowed to use
- 3 should've / ought to have put
- 4 must have pressed
- 5 ought to have / should've checked
- 6 can (also) be sent
- 7 didn't (even) need / have to
- 8 should (probably) read
- 9 must be