

1 Look at the words in bold in the sentences and circle the correct options.

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

2 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- It was hard work, but I *could* / *managed to* finish my assignment just before the deadline.
- Lukas *could* / *managed to* play tennis quite well before he got that shoulder injury.
- Did Louise manage to* / *Could Louise* find the book she was looking for?
- People always told me I *could* / *managed to* sing well, but I thought I sounded terrible.
- Could* / *Did you manage to* you swim when you were four years old?
- On Sunday Sam *could* / *managed to* complete the marathon and set his best ever time.
- This is your new car? I thought you *couldn't* / *didn't manage to* drive?

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

- 1 Could you change your train tickets yesterday? X
- 2 I'm looking for my coat. I think someone can take it by mistake last night.
- 3 I wasn't allowed to wear earrings till I was ten.
- 4 It wasn't my fault, so it should have been yours.
- 5 When we got to the wood we must put up our tents.
- 6 Kelly ought not to have rushed; she had time.
- 7 You couldn't seen Alice yesterday because she was still in France.

4 Complete the second sentence in each pair so that the meaning stays the same as the first sentence.

- 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.
We could
- I **couldn't** understand all of the text.
I was able to
- She **shouldn't** have been so rude to you.
She should've
- The accident **can't have** happened before 6 pm.
The accident must've
- The kids **didn't have to** pay, only the adults.
The adults
- Ben **couldn't** run any further than two kilometres yesterday.
Ben managed to
- I **ought not to** have eaten so much.
I ought to

5 Complete the conversation with a modal plus one of the verbs in the box. Use six past modals and three present modals.

print off be be sent check go press
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 advice
- 3 deduction or speculation
- 4 permission
- 5 obligation
- 6 deduction or speculation
- 7 ability
- 8 permission

2

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

3

- 2 ~~X~~ must have taken it
- 3 ✓
- 4 ~~X~~ must have been
- 5 ~~X~~ had to
- 6 ✓
- 7 ~~X~~ couldn't have seen

4

- 2 throw balls in the garden (but not in the house).
- 3 understand part(s)/some of the text.
- 4 been nicer to you.
- 5 happened after 6pm.
- 6 had to pay (but the kids didn't).
- 7 run two kilometres yesterday.
- 8 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