

Grammar

Modals & Semi-modals (1)

A Read the example sentences carefully. What do the modal verbs in bold in each group have in common?

Group 1

Harry **could** be in the library.
I **may** travel abroad next year.
We **might** go to the cinema tonight.
You **must** be tired. You've been exercising all morning. You **can't** be hungry. You just had lunch.
The modal verbs refer to _____.

Group 2

My grandad **can** speak seven languages.
Karen **could** run very fast when she was at school.
Francis **was able to** go mountain climbing at the weekend.
The modal verbs refer to _____.

Group 3

You **should** eat more fruit and vegetables.
We **shouldn't** spend so much money on magazines.
You **ought to** make an appointment to see the doctor.
The modal verbs refer to _____.

B Work with a partner and complete the meanings of each group in A with the words below.

- ability
- advice and suggestions
- possibility and certainty

Grammar Focus p.168 & 169 (8.1 to 8.9)

C Choose the correct answers.

- 1 Is it OK if I borrow your pencil for a minute?
_____ I borrow your pencil for a minute?
a Should b Can c Am I able
- 2 I'm certain he's in the park because his football boots aren't here.
His football boots aren't here so he _____ in the park.
a must be b can't be c might be
- 3 You are able to join the photography club.
You _____ join the photography club.
a must b can c mustn't
- 4 You ought not to go swimming today.
You _____ go swimming today.
a mustn't b aren't able to c shouldn't
- 5 He was able to play the piano very well when he was younger.
When he was younger, he _____ play the piano very well.
a wasn't able b can c could
- 6 It's possible that he will have an art exhibition next spring.
He _____ have an art exhibition next spring.
a should b must c may
- 7 I think it's a good idea for you to go outside more.
You _____ go outside more.
a might b must c ought to
- 8 They weren't able to open the window.
They _____ open the window.
a couldn't b can't c did not

D Work with a partner. Decide on the advice you would give your friend for each point below and suggest things that could help in each situation.

Your friend wants to ...

- 1 get fit and lose weight
- 2 learn bungee-jumping
- 3 start a recycling campaign at school
- 4 change schools because she has broken up with her boy / girlfriend

