



# Modals: Ability

- 1 Choose the best answers to express ability.
- a I can help you if you want.  
b I can play the piano.
  - a He could speak two other languages.  
b I could speak to my teacher.
  - a Can you open the window?  
b We'll be able to do more things on our mobiles.
  - a In two years' time, I'll be able to drive a car.  
b In two years' time, I will drive a car.
  - a Can you play tennis?  
b Can you pass me the sugar?
  - a She couldn't convince him to go to the party.  
b I could get you something to eat if you want.

# Obligation / Lack of obligation / Prohibition

- 2 Complete the sentences with *must*, *mustn't* or *don't have to*.  
Before the fashion show starts, listen to the rules:
- You \_\_\_\_\_ wear clothes by the designer. You can wear anything you like.
  - You \_\_\_\_\_ wear nice clothes or you won't be allowed in.
  - You \_\_\_\_\_ show your ticket to get in. No ticket – no entrance.
  - You \_\_\_\_\_ talk during the show. It's not allowed.
  - You \_\_\_\_\_ turn off your phone.
  - You \_\_\_\_\_ take any photos. It's forbidden.

# Recommendations / Advice

- 3 Match situations 1–5 with the advice a–e.
- This shirt is too tight. \_\_\_\_
  - Joe likes those boots. \_\_\_\_
  - I spend too much money. \_\_\_\_
  - Your laces are loose. \_\_\_\_
  - These trousers are too long. \_\_\_\_
- You ought to take up the hem.
  - You should wear a looser one.
  - You ought to spend less on clothes.
  - You should tie them.
  - We ought to buy them for his birthday.

# Possibility in the present

- 4 Complete the dialogue with *can't*, *might*, *must* or *may*.
- Anna: Whose MP3 player is this?  
Tony: It isn't mine and it 1 \_\_\_\_\_ be Elaine's because she doesn't have one.  
Kate: No, but it 2 \_\_\_\_\_ be Mike's. He was listening to his earlier.  
Anna: It 3 \_\_\_\_\_ be his, because his is red and this one is yellow.  
Kate: Julie has a yellow one. It 4 \_\_\_\_\_ be hers.  
Tony: I think you're right. It 5 \_\_\_\_\_ be Julie's. Let's call her and ask her.

# Possibility in the past

- 5 Choose the best answers to explain the sentences.
- She knocked on the door but no one opened it.  
a She *mustn't* have heard you.  
b She *heard* you knocking.
  - You can't find your geography book.  
a You *might* have left it at school.  
b You *might* leave it at school.
  - Eve didn't call you last night.  
a She *mustn't* have forgotten.  
b She *must* have forgotten.
  - Your friends are in a café and they are laughing.  
a Jane *must* tell a funny story.  
b Jane *must* have told a funny story.
  - My brother studied hard for the exam.  
a He *can't* have passed.  
b He *must* have passed.

- 6 Rewrite the sentences with the words in brackets.
- It isn't obligatory to spend a fortune to look good. (don't have to)  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - I recommend you look for clothes in second-hand and cheaper shops first. (should)  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - I forbid you from buying clothes without trying them on first. (mustn't)  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - It is a good idea to read fashion magazines. (ought to)  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - I don't remember spending all that money on my credit card. (can't)  
\_\_\_\_\_