

Modal verbs in the past and future

- 1 Read the things Ben could and couldn't do when he was ten.
Write sentences about Ben.

When Ben was ten ...

- 1 swim ✓

He could swim. / He was able to swim.

- 2 ride a bike ✓

He _____

- 3 play the guitar ✗

He _____

- 4 speak French ✗

He _____

- 5 play tennis ✓

He _____

- 6 solve difficult math problems ✓

He _____

- 2 Choose the correct word.

- 1 When I was young, I *couldn't / didn't manage to* swim.
- 2 I *could / managed to* play the piano when I was five.
- 3 I *could / managed to* pass my exams last year.
- 4 I *could / was able to* pass my driving test first time.
- 5 I *didn't have to study / wasn't able to have studied* English at school.
- 6 I *had to / didn't need to* do a test yesterday. It was difficult.
- 7 In the future, everyone *will have to / won't be able to* learn Chinese.

- 3 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

When I was at school, we (1) _____ (have to) wear a uniform, but in the future, most children (2) _____ (not need to) wear one. We (3) _____ (able to) stay at home until we were six or seven, but in the future, children (4) _____ (need to) start school when they are about four. When we were young, we (5) _____ (not able to) use the Internet to help us study, but in the future, all children (6) _____ (able to) study at home using their computers. In the past, we (7) _____ (not need to) worry if we (8) _____ (not able to) use a computer, but nowadays people (9) _____ (not able to) get a good job unless they can use a computer well.