

Worksheet 14

Modals in the past and future

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

When Sandy 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 maths problems ✓

He _____

2 Choose the correct modal verb to complete each sentence.

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* answer all the questions in the exam.

5 I *didn't have to study* / *needn't have studied* English at school.

6 You really *couldn't have* / *needn't have* done that, but thanks anyway.

7 In the future everyone *will have to* / *won't be able to* learn Chinese.

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

When I was at school we (1) _____ (need to) wear a uniform, but in the future most children (2) _____ (not have 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 very well, but nowadays people (9) _____ (not able to) get a good job unless they can use a computer well.