



Discover Grammar

A Listen and read.  06

There was an earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2011. James' home was damaged and he was hurt.

- Doctor Good morning, James. How are you feeling today? Can you walk OK now?
- James No, I can't. I could walk a little yesterday, but I can't walk now.
- Doctor May I have a look at your leg?
- James Yes, sure, but it really hurts.
- Doctor OK, I'll be very careful. Could you lift your leg for me?
- James No, it hurts too much.
- Doctor You must lift it. Or how can I check it?
- James It must be broken.
- Doctor No, I'm sure it can't be broken. But the bone might be damaged.
- James OK.
- Doctor Well, you will have to rest for a few days. Then you need to walk every day for about ten minutes. If that feels OK, you will have to start running short distances.
- James Can I do some soccer training?
- Doctor Yes, you can. You may train for twenty minutes two or three times a week.

B Listen again and underline the modals (*can, can't, could, may, must, might, will have to, need to*).  06

C Read the conversation again. Complete the sentences.

- James _____ walk today.
- He _____ walk a little yesterday.
- The bone isn't broken but it _____ be damaged.
- The doctor tells James he _____ rest his leg for a few days.
- The doctor says he _____ do some soccer training.
- He says James _____ train for twenty minutes two or three times a week.

Learn Grammar

A Read and learn.

Learn Grammar Modals

The modal verbs *can*, *can't*, *could*, *may*, *must*, *might*, *will have to*, *need to* are used to talk about ability, obligation and necessity, and possibility and deduction. They are also used to ask and give permission and to make requests.

Ability: Use *can* or *can't* to talk about someone's skill or general abilities. Use *can* or *can't* to talk about the ability to do something at a given time in the present.

In the future, you use *will* / *won't be able to*. Use *could* or *couldn't*, *was* / *wasn't able to* to talk about past time.

Can you walk now?

I can't walk now.

I could walk a little yesterday.

Permission: Use *can*, *could*, or *may* to ask or give someone permission to do something. *May* and *could* are more formal and polite than *can*.

Can / Could I do some soccer training?

You can do some training.

You may train two or three times a week.

Requests: Use *can*, *could*, *would*, or *may* to ask someone to do something.

May, *would*, and *could* are more formal and more polite than *can*.

Can / May I have a look at your leg?

Could you lift your leg for me?

Obligation and necessity: Use *must* / *(will) have to* / *need to* to say that it is necessary to do something.

You must lift it.

He has to stay in bed.

You will have to rest your leg.

You need to walk every day for about ten minutes.

Only use *must* for obligation and necessity in the present and the future.

When you want to talk about obligation and necessity in the past, you use *had to*.

He had to rest his leg.

Possibility and deduction: Use *may*, *could*, or *might* if you are not completely sure about something.

The bone might be damaged.

Use *must* for possibility and deduction when you are more sure of something.

It must be broken.





B Read the sentences and circle the correct words.


- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Can you walk now? | ability / permission |
| 2 You can do some training. | request / permission |
| 3 May I have a look at your leg? | permission / request |
| 4 Could you lift your leg for me? | request / permission |
| 5 You must lift it. | request / obligation |
| 6 You will have to rest your leg. | request / obligation |
| 7 You need to walk every day. | obligation / permission |
| 8 It must be broken. | request / deduction |

C Read the blog posts that people wrote after the earthquake. Circle the correct words.

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 **James** I am writing about the earthquake for my school magazine.
1 **Could** / **Need** you tell me about your experiences?

 **Mike** I 2 **can't** / **needn't** remember much. I heard a bang and then
I 3 **wouldn't** / **couldn't** see anything. After ten minutes, I 4 **was able to** / **might**
hear voices. A man shouted, "Are you OK? 5 **Could** / **Can** you hear me?"
The next thing I remember is waking up in the hospital.

 **Ji-Min** I was at home, and I 6 **couldn't** / **had to** understand what was happening.
Everything was suddenly dark, I was on the floor, and I 7 **needn't** / **couldn't**
hear my music any more. Nothing hurt, but I 8 **wasn't able to** / **wouldn't** see
or hear anything. I lay there for about half an hour. I remember thinking that
I 9 **can** / **needed to** feed my cat! Then the rescuers came. They 10 **might not** /
weren't able to open the door, so they came in through the window. I asked
them if they 11 **can** / **could** find my cat. They said she 12 **might** / **need** be in the
garden. They were right.

D Read the blog posts in **C** again and write questions. Use the correct modals.

- 1 What / remember / Mike?
What can Mike remember?
- 2 What / Mike / see?

- 3 What / Mike / hear?

- 4 What / Ji-Min / understand?

- 5 Ji-Min / hear / her / music?

- 6 the rescuers / open / door?
