Language focus
Modal verbs of probability in the past

Missing for 500 years!

1 Look at the pictures and read the introduction. Discuss these questions with a partner.

1 Who was the man?
2 How did he die?
3 Why was he found in a car park?
4 How old was he when he died?
5 What is the connection with the actor, Benedict Cumberbatch?

> He must have been someone important.

> It might have been Shakespeare.

> He could have died …

> The actor may be interested in history …

Benedict Cumberbatch

2 🔊 **10.2** Listen to two friends, **Andy** and **Bill**, discussing the skeleton.

1 What are their answers to the questions in **1**?
2 Were your predictions correct?

One of the greatest mysteries of
English history

In August 2012, the skeleton of a 500-year-old man was discovered beneath a council car park in Leicester /ˈlestə/, England. This find caused great excitement among archaeologists and historians.

3 Answer the questions using the modal verbs in *italics*.

1 When did Richard die?
in the 15th century (*must*)
2 What was he doing when he died?
riding a horse / fighting in a battle (*could, must*)
3 Who was he fighting in the battle?
Henry VII / Elizabeth I (*might, can't*)
4 Was he buried in the car park?
(*can't, wouldn't*)
5 How old was he when he died?
32 or 33 / 40 (*may, can't*)
6 What did they learn from his deformed spine?
a hunchback (*could*)
7 Why were his feet missing?
builders in the 16th century (*might*)
8 Did the Canadian people know they were related?
any idea (*can't*)
9 How did Benedict Cumberbatch feel about the discovery?
very surprised (*must*)

4 🔊 **10.3** Listen and check. Practise the sentences, paying attention to contracted forms and weak forms.