

## Language focus

### Modal verbs of probability in the past

#### TEST YOUR GRAMMAR

1 All modal verbs can be used to express degrees of probability. Which of these sentences do this? Put a (✓). Which don't? Put a (✗).

- 1 She must be very rich.
- 2 I must do my homework.
- 3 They can't be at home. There are no lights on.
- 4 I think it's Jane, but I might be wrong.
- 5 I can't sleep because of the noise.
- 6 You should see a doctor.
- 7 Cheer up! Things could be worse.
- 8 The train may be late due to bad weather.

2 Put all the sentences in the past.

10.1 Listen and check.

## 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 ...



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 /lestə/, 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.