

## Sample lesson plan for *Grammar for IELTS* Unit 13

**Student preparation for this class:** Have learners study the first part, the grammar, before the class and make notes on anything they need clarifying in class. (20–30 mins)

**Teacher preparation:** none

### Practice exercises (45 mins)

**FOCUS** These exercises train learners to use modals in the past in an appropriate way in spoken and written English.

#### Exercise 1

This gap-fill exercise checks learners' ability to use modal verbs correctly in the past tense. It is looking for very specific answers, so it is best to demonstrate with the first item as a class. Elicit the correct answer (*couldn't have known*) and clarify options that are incorrect. For example: *didn't know* is not possible, as the auxiliary verb is not a modal; *couldn't know* is not possible, as speculations about the past require the form: modal auxiliary + *have* + past participle. Learners then complete the exercise and check their answers in pairs.

**Typical mistakes:** The biggest problem that students face is that there are different ways of creating the past form of modals:

*have to* – straightforward past *had to*

*should, ought to* – can only be used with *have* (e.g. *should have*)

*can* – depends on meaning *could* (for ability) or *could have* (for possibility)

*must* – also depends on meaning but *had to* (obligation) and *must have* (deduction)

The different forms take time to understand and remember. It is therefore useful to review the forms of past tense modals on a regular basis.

#### Exercise 2

Direct attention to the Exam tip at the top of page 56. Highlight that the use of modals for agreeing and disagreeing can be a deliberate distraction in the Listening exam. This exercise helps to raise awareness of how modals with different functions and shades of meaning can be used in one text. The answers are all in the box above the text, so challenge learners to get them all correct.

#### Exercise 3

Having done Exercise 2, learners should also be able to complete this exercise correctly. When they have filled the gaps with their own ideas, have them discuss their answers in pairs before listening and checking their answers.

#### Exercise 4

This exercise focuses on identifying different past tense modals in a text in order to complete notes that sum up key information. Have learners look at the notes, then listen and complete them. They can then discuss their answers in pairs before checking any problem areas with the audio script.

#### EXTENSION ACTIVITY (20 MINS)

For additional practice in using modals in the past, have them write their own sentences to exemplify the different uses explained in the Grammar section in the context of the planets and ecology. When they have finished, have them exchange with a partner to check.

### Exam practice (30 mins)

This can be assigned for homework. Remind learners to look again at the Tip box as well as the Exam tip box on page 57, before completing the Exam practice section.

In the next class, have learners go through the transcript and underline all the future forms. Then have them discuss the different reasons for each choice in pairs.