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Final exam - practical course in English, 2nd semester, School of Mathematics and Computer Science

1. Look at the following sentences and identify those that express degrees of likelihood (certainty, probability, or possibility). Categorize the remaining sentences in terms of what their modals express (obligation, permission, ability and willingness): *(1p x 9+1p oficiu = 10p)*

1) You *can* borrow the car, I don't need it.
   permission
2) He *can* still be at the office, it's after 9 o'clock.
   possibility
3) I *can't* hear you very well, the line's bad.
   lack of ability
4) That *won't* be the postman at the door, he's been already.
   degree of likelihood, certainty
5) *Will* you give me a hand with this? It's so heavy.
   willingness
6) John's awful. He simply *won't* admit that he's made a mistake!
   lack of willingness
7) He'*ll* be at the airport by now.
   degree of likelihood, probability
8) No, you *may* not leave before the end.
   permission
9) We *may* be in for a rough crossing, there's a storm coming.
   possibility

2. Write 1 beside the verb WOULD if it refers to a past habit and 2 if it refers to a future-in-the-past. *(1,5p x 6+1p oficiu = 10p)*

a) Every night when I was a child, one of my parents (**1**) *would* read me a story, then the other (**1**) *would* hold my hand until I fell asleep.
b) I come from quite a poor background. If my parents ever had any money, which was rare, they (**2**) *would* pay all their debts and try to clothe us kids.
c) The couple looked around their new house, excited yet anxious. It (**2**) *would* be a long time before everything was how they wanted.
d) When I was younger, I (**1**) *would* stay up night after night going to parties, but I find I need my sleep these days.
e) Before stepping into the plane, she looked around wistfully at the country she had grown to love. She wanted to savour every last sensation. It (**2**) *would* be a long time before she came back.

3. Correct the error or errors in each sentence: *(1p x 9+1p oficiu = 10p)*

a) I wish I bought that old house.

   I wish I had bought that old house.

b) I'd rather you don't eat all the bread.

   I'd rather you didn't eat all the bread

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c) It's time I go.

It's time I went.

d) I wish I own a motorbike.

I wish I owned a motorbike.

e) I wish we are not leaving in the morning.

I wish we weren't leaving in the morning.

f) Sue would rather reading than watching television.

Sue would rather read than watch television

g) Come what comes, I'll be on your side.

Come what may. I'll be on your side.

h) I hope it would stop raining.

I hope it will stop raining.

i) I'd prefer you didn't wait.

I'd prefer you not to wait.