



## Practice

<http://englishstandarts.blogspot.com/2012/08/examples-of-modal-verbs-in-texts-and.html>

Below there is a story which contains some modal verbs. Read the text, explore the different verbs and try to get each of its uses: **could** **to be able**, **to be unable** **must** **would** **should** **shall** ...

The text also shows the pronunciation of some regular verbs in the past: **/t/**, **/d/**, **/id/**

### The Story of Helen Keller, The Girl Who **Could Not** See, Hear or Speak

taken from "Short Stories of Famous Women"



#### Vocabulary

**overcome**: to triumph, to conquer

**darling**: love, sweetheart

**deaf**: not hearing

**spelled out** How to write a word

**keep up with**: continue, go on

**handicaps**: impediments

**find out**: realize, discover

**pumps**: water dispenser

**uttered**: expressed, spoke

**lectured**: talked, gave a conference

**doomed**: condemned, hopeless

**hopelessly**: completely

**run over**: flow

**crowds**: large groups of people, public.

I'd like you to know the story of Helen Keller, who **could neither see nor hear** from the time she was a baby. The brilliant girl **was able to overcome** all those *handicaps*, and graduate from a college with honors and become a useful citizen.

**I must say** there was nothing wrong with Helen Keller when she was born. Her father and mother were very proud of their pretty baby, who tried to say "pa-pa" and "ma-ma". For nineteen months Helen grew bigger and stronger. **She was able to walk** when she was a year old; **she could say** a few words.

But one day the child fell ill. For days she had a high fever and soon the parents understood that their *darling would never be able to see and hear*. The little child was now *doomed* to a life of silence and darkness. *She could not hear* and did not know how to talk; *she was unable to play* with other children.

When Helen was 6 years old her parents took her to Baltimore and then to Washington to famous doctors *to find out if they could do* something to make her hear and see again, but the doctors *could do nothing*. The child was *hopelessly deaf*. Dr. Bell said the Kellers *should address* the Perkins Institution for the blind in Boston and ask if *they could send* someone to help the child.

It was a wonderful day for Helen Keller when Ann Sullivan arrived in March 1887 to take charge of the child *who could neither hear nor speak*. Helen was nearly seven, Ann Sullivan was past twenty. Ann Sullivan found a way to make herself understood. She gave the child a doll, and taking Helen Keller's hand she slowly *spelled out* "d-o-l". The child learned for the first time that things *must have names*.

When Miss Sullivan later *spelled* into the little girl's hand the word "w-a-t-e-r" and then let the water from the *pumps run over* her hand, a new light seemed to brighten the face of the child. During the next 3 months, she *learned* 300 words and *could* even put some of them into sentences. Miss Sullivan *loved* her pupil who was so quick to learn. She *lived* with Helen, *played* with her and *worked* with her every hour of the day. By means of the hand language, Helen and her teacher *were able to talk* to each other.

Helen *learned* to read books that were *printed* for the blind with *raised* letters. She also *learned* to use the typewriter to write what she *wanted* to say. When Helen was 10 she was *determined* that *she would learn* to speak. At first she *learned* only the sounds of the letters of the alphabet, but soon *she was able to say words* and sentences. In the story of her life Helen Keller writes, "*I shall never forget* the surprise and delight I felt when I *uttered* my first *connected* sentence: "It is warm."

At first she had much difficulty with her speech, but Ann Sullivan understood what Helen trying to say. Helen *practiced* speaking day after day until at last she *developed* a clear voice. Later *she was able to speak* before large *crowds* which came to hear her whenever she *lectured*.



At the age of 20 Helen Keller *passed* all the difficult entrance examinations to Radcliffe College. Helen did extremely well in her classes and *was able to keep up with* the other students. Helen wrote "The Story of My Life" while she was in college. In her writings and lectures **Helen did everything** *she could* to help and encourage others who were blind.

## WORKSHOP

Develop the following questions about the reading

I. after reading the text, **identify and choose 10 specific/key words** and write them. Do not repeat any of them.

II. what was the health condition Hellen Keller had during her life?

III. Was Helen Keller born with health problems?

IV. How old was she when her health problems began?

V. what was the first symptom?

VI. Where did the parents take her first to help Helen? and what did the doctors say and recommend?

VII. What was the first word Anne Sullivan taught to Helen?

VIII. At what age and to what university did Helen Keller study?

### **Video about Helen Keller**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6p282-QTNs>