

# 49 Modal verbs in the future

Some modal verbs change form when used to talk about the future. Others cannot be used in the future at all, and have to be replaced with other modal verbs or phrases.

⚙️ **New language** "Will be able to," "will have to"

Aa **Vocabulary** Legal terms

🧩 **New skill** Expressing future ability and obligation

## 49.1 KEY LANGUAGE "CAN" IN THE FUTURE

It is not grammatically possible to talk about the future using "can." "Will be able to" is used instead.

At the moment, I **can** play the trombone quite well.



If I work harder, I **will be able to** play at concerts.

"Will can" is incorrect.

The negative is formed with "not able to" or "unable to."

Unfortunately, I **can't** read music very well.



If I don't learn, I **won't be able to** join the orchestra.

You can also use "will be unable to," but it's less common.



## 49.2 REWRITE THE SENTENCES TO REFER TO THE FUTURE

Can the police find a way to stop people from littering?

*Will the police be able to find a way to stop people from littering?*

1 Unfortunately, he can't pay his parking fines.

2 Can you install a security camera in the store?

3 I can't understand all these legal regulations.

4 Hopefully, my sister can explain it all to me. She's a lawyer.



### 49.3 KEY LANGUAGE "MUST" AND "HAVE TO" IN THE FUTURE

There is no future form of "must."

The future of "have to" is formed with the auxiliary verb "will."

In some countries, people **must have to** recycle. It's the law.

In the future, I think everyone **will have to** recycle.

"Will must" is incorrect.



The negative is formed by adding "not" between "will" and "have."

One day, I hope I **will not have to** work so hard.



### 49.4 REWRITE THE SENTENCES PUTTING THE WORDS IN THE CORRECT ORDER

I parking fine? have Will pay to a

*Will I have to pay a parking fine?*

1 have You will to longer work soon. hours

2 able you be won't here. to park Tomorrow,

3 able them? Will police arrest to be the

4 police. will I have the to call

5 law? Will enforce they to new be able the





## 49.5 READ THE ARTICLE AND WRITE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS AS FULL SENTENCES

### WORLD

# GET OUT OF MY LANE!

Two-speed walking lanes are becoming increasingly common in shopping malls.

**M**ore and more shopping malls around the world are planning to introduce two-speed walking lanes for shoppers, consisting of a fast lane and a slow lane. The fast lanes are for shoppers who are in a hurry, but anyone who wants to browse slowly or use their phone as they walk has to use the slow lane.

Shopping malls in cities such as Chongqing, Antwerp, and Liverpool have already introduced this system. The idea is that faster

people will be able to overtake slower shoppers. Researchers have found that younger shoppers in particular are really frustrated by people walking slowly. Mall owners worry that this frustration might encourage people to stay away and shop online instead.

However, the plans are not without their downsides. Some people argue that officials will not be able to enforce the new rules effectively. And in Chongqing, it



has been reported that many shoppers were too busy looking at their phones to notice that they were straying into the wrong lane!

Who are the two different walking lanes for?

*One is for fast walkers and one is for those who want to walk slowly.*

1 Where have these lanes already been introduced?

2 Who are particularly frustrated by slower shoppers?

3 Why are shopping malls concerned about these frustrated shoppers?

4 What difficulty might officials face with the two-speed lanes system?

5 What was one of the problems with the scheme when it was introduced in Chongqing?



## 49.6 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE WORDS IN THE PANEL



A radio show is reporting on a new law concerning farmers' land.

A new law has just been passed by the government. This new law \_\_\_\_\_ members of the public to walk on farmers' land. Walkers will have to \_\_\_\_\_ reasonable rules set by the landowners. If they \_\_\_\_\_ these rules, they could be \_\_\_\_\_ from walking in the area or they could even be \_\_\_\_\_. Some farmers, however, think that the police will not be able to \_\_\_\_\_ the law.

permits

banned

break

observe

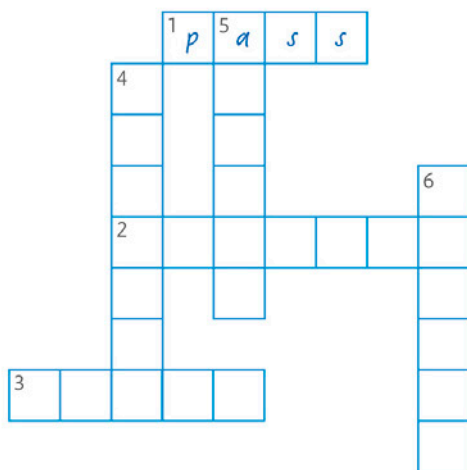
enforce

~~passed~~

arrested

Aa

## 49.7 READ THE CLUES AND WRITE THE ANSWERS IN THE CORRECT PLACES ON THE GRID



- 1 To make a new law or rule official
- 2 To follow a rule or law
- 3 To not follow a rule or law
- 4 To make sure a rule or law is obeyed
- 5 To stop someone and take them to a police station
- 6 To allow something to happen

enforce

~~pass~~

permit

break

arrest

observe



### 49 CHECKLIST



"Will be able to," "will have to" ☐

Aa Legal terms ☐



Expressing future ability and obligation ☐