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Reading Level 1: Soda ban in New York
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Topics: fast food, health, advertising
Learning points:
- modal verbs
- some, any, much, many, a lot

1	In New York City, more than half of adults are overweight[1]. In the USA, 35% of adults and 17% of children are
2	overweight. Some people say that this is because people eat and drink lots of calories.
3	How can you stop people from eating and drinking too many calories?
5	The mayor[2] of New York City wants to ban[3] large sugary drinks in restaurants, cinemas and sport stadiums.
6	Do you drink a lot of sodas ('soda' is the American English word for 'fizzy drinks'[4] like[5] coke or fanta)?
7	The ban on sugary drinks is for any drink larger than a medium coffee (500ml) with more than 50 calories in it.
8	Diet sodas and low-calorie drinks will be allowed. Free[6] re-fills[7] will be allowed, and people will be able to buy
9	large sugary drinks in grocery[8] shops and supermarkets.
10	Do you think that this ban will work?
12	In the past, the mayor banned smoking in restaurants and parks, and some fats in restaurant food.
13	New York was also the first city where restaurants had to say how many calories were in their food.
14	Now these laws[9] are common[10] across America. Perhaps other cities will ban large sugary drinks, too.
15	There is already a rule in some cities that schools are not allowed to sell any sugary drinks.
17	At the same time, Disney will have new standards for food and drink adverts[11] on its TV channels[12] and at its
18	theme parks. Perhaps this is because lots of advertising for fast food on TV makes children eat more fast
19	food. In the future, children won't have to see so much advertising for fast food.
21	But should adults be allowed to choose[13] how large their drinks are?

[1] overweight = übergewichtig
[2] mayor = Bürgermeister/in
[3] to ban = verbieten
[4] fizzy drink / soda = Getränk mit Kohlensäure
[5] like = (ähnlich) wie
[6] free = gratis
[7] re-fill = Nachfüllen
[8] grocery = Lebensmittelgeschäft
[9] law = Gesetz
[10] common = üblich
[11] advert(ising) = Werbung / Werbespot / Inserat
[12] channel = Kanal
[13] to choose = auswählen

Level 1 questions

Modal verbs
1. In line 8, there are words which mean 'can' and words which mean 'may' (in the future tense).
   The same words are in lines 15 and 21.
   In line 13 there are words for 'must' (but in the past tense). The same words are in line 19.

   Can you complete this table with the longer forms of these modal verbs:

Modal verb	Past	Present	Future
can			
may			
must			

2. Can you change these (wrong) sentences into correct ones?

   a. You will can drink small sodas

   b. Restaurants did must say how many calories were in their food.

   c. Children will not must watch lots of adverts for fast food.

   d. In the future, you may not buy a large soda at the cinema.

Some, any, much, many, a lot

3. Which of these sentences are true/correct, and which are false/wrong/incorrect?
   Can you find sentences in the text which show you the answers?

   a. You can use 'many' with questions for countable[14] nouns like 'calories'.

   b. You use 'some' to include every kind[15] of thing, or all things.

   c. You use 'much' with positive sentences for countable nouns like 'calories'.

   d. You use 'much' with negative sentences for uncountable nouns like 'advertising'.

   e. You use 'some' for a limited group.

   f. You can use 'lots of' for all positive sentences (countable and uncountable).

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[14] countable = zählbar
[15] kind of = Art von

 Level 1 answers

1.

Modal verb	Past	Present	Future
can	was/were able to	am/is/are able to	will be able to
may	was/were allowed to	am/is/are allowed to	will be allowed to
must	had to	have to / has to	will have to

2.

    a.   You **will be able to** drink small sodas

    b.   Restaurants **had to** say how many calories were in their food.

    c.   Children **will not have to** watch lots of adverts for fast food.

    d.   In the future, you **will not be allowed to** buy a large soda at the cinema.

Some, any, much, many, a lot

3.   Which of these sentences are true/correct, and which are false/wrong/incorrect?
     Can you find sentences in the text which show you the answers?

    a.   You can use 'many' with questions for countable[16] nouns like 'calories'. – TRUE (line 3)

    b.   You use 'some' to include every kind[17] of thing, or all things. - FALSE (lines 2, 12)

    c.   You use 'much' with positive sentences for countable nouns like 'calories'. – FALSE (line 19, line 2)

    d.   You use 'much' with negative sentences for uncountable nouns like 'advertising'. – TRUE (line 19)

    e.   You use 'any' for a limited group. – FALSE (lines 7, 15)

    f.   You can use 'lots of' for all posititve sentences. – TRUE (lines 2, 18)

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[16] countable = zählbar
[17] kind of = Art von