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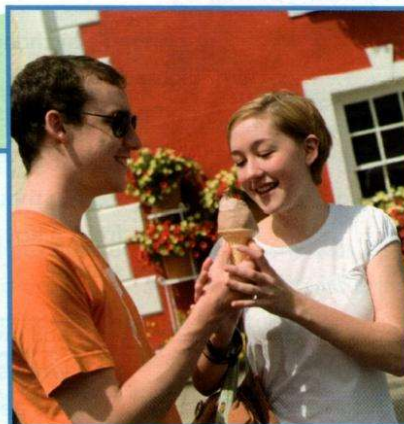
Modals (1)

Ability, permission, requests, offers, suggestions

TeenLink

Are you a good friend?

- 1 Your friend has passed an important examination in French. What do you say?
 - a Congratulations! Let's celebrate!
 - b OK, so you can write French, but can you speak it?
 - c I could speak French when I was three!
- 2 It's a hot day in the park and you'd like an ice cream. Your friend hasn't got any money with him. What do you say?
 - a Shall I buy you an ice cream?
 - b You could go home and get some money.
 - c Can you hold my ice cream? I'll go get some lemonade, too. And don't eat it!
- 3 Your friend asks if he / she can borrow your MP3 player. He / She wants to listen to some music while you are busy. What do you say?
 - a Of course you can borrow it! Here you are.
 - b We could listen to some music together later.
 - c Why don't you buy your own MP3 player?
- 4 Your friend has broken his / her leg, so he / she can't go to the party tonight. Everybody else is going. What do you say?
 - a I'll stay with you. Shall I bring some snacks and a DVD?
 - b I'll tell you all about the party tomorrow.
 - c Could you lend me your new trainers for the party? You're not going to need them!



Answers:
Mostly a: You're a real friend!
Mostly b: Oh, dear, you are not very popular, are you?
Mostly c: Do you enjoy being so nasty?

1 Complete the tables.

Ability	Positive	Negative	Question
can	She can ride a bike.	She cannot (.....) ride a bike.	Can she a bike? *
could	He write when he was four.	He (.....) couldn't write when he was four. he write when he was four?
be able to: present	I was able to climb over the fence.	I able to climb over the fence.	Was I able climb over the fence?
be able to: past	We able to find the key.	We were (weren't) able to find the key. we able to find the key?
be able to: future	They'll able to open the box.	They will not (.....) be able to open the box. they be able to open the box?
be able to: present perfect	You have been to talk to him.	You haven't able to talk to him. you been able to talk to him?

2 Read the information.

Ability

Can, could

- We use *can* + verb to talk about our general ability to do something. It has only two forms: *can* in the present and *could* in the past.

She can play the piano very well.

They could run faster when they were younger.

Be able to

- We use *be able to* (+ verb) to talk about our ability to do something. *Be able to* can replace *can* in the present, future and present perfect forms.

Tom is able to buy his own clothes.

We'll be able to see real lions at the safari park.

They've always been able to help us.

Could or was / were able to?

In the past, we use *could* to talk about our general ability to do something.

- We use *was / were able to* to talk about something we managed to do in a particular case.

He could lift heavy objects because he was very strong.

In the end, I was able to lift the heavy sofa with the help of a friend.

NOT: ~~*In the end, I could lift the heavy box with the help of a friend.*~~

- In the negative we can use both forms (*couldn't*, *wasn't*, *weren't able to*) to talk about something we managed to do.

They couldn't get tickets for the show.

They weren't able to get tickets for the show.

3 Complete with the correct form of *be able to*.

- I *will be able to see* the manager next week. (see)
- We a cheap hotel room on the Internet. (usually / find)
- you us tomorrow? (visit)
- The DVD player was broken so we it. (not use)
- They since they were five years old. (skate)
- she the show last night? (watch)
- I'm sorry I you last time. (help)

4 Write sentences with *could* or *couldn't*.

Peter	Harry	Lucy	Beth
ride a bike (3)	skate (6)	draw (3)	read (4)
play basketball (8)	use a computer (5)	swim (6)	write (5)

- When Peter was four years old *he could ride a bike*, but *he couldn't play basketball*.
- When Harry was five years old, but
- When Lucy was three years old, but
- When Beth was four years old, but

5 Complete with *could* or *was / were able to*.

- Were you able to finish* the test before the bell rang? (you / finish)
- Spanish well when I was younger. (I / speak)
- a computer two years ago? (he / use)
- the question although it was a difficult one. (they / answer)
- It was awfully hot last night. at all? (you / sleep)
- the Eiffel Tower from my bedroom window when I lived in Paris. (I / see)
- He didn't have a key, but into the house through the open window. (he / get)

6 Complete the table.

Permission	Positive	Negative	Question
<i>can / could</i>	I can use my mobile.	I can't use my mobile.	Can / I use my mobile?
<i>may</i>	You play outside.	You may not play outside.	May I play outside?
<i>be allowed to</i>	We allowed to wear shorts.	We not allowed to wear shorts.	Are we to wear shorts?

7 Read the information.

Permission**Can, could**

- We use *can* to give someone permission to do something.
- We use *can't* when we want to refuse permission.

You can watch TV after you have finished your homework.

They can't leave before the lesson finishes.

- We use *can* and *could* to ask for permission to do something.
- Normally, we use *can* with people we know well, e.g. friends and family.
- We use *could* when we want to be more polite, e.g. with people we do not know well or older people.

Mum, can I go to bed later, today?

Could I use your bathroom, please?

May

- We use *may* to ask, give or refuse permission. *May* is more formal than *can* and *could*.

May I ask you a question, madam?

You may only park in this area if you work here.

You may not feed the animals.

Be allowed to

- We use *be allowed to* to talk about something that we have or haven't got permission to do. It usually refers to rules, e.g. school or family or work.

I am not allowed to stay out later than 9 o'clock.

Are you allowed to wear jewellery at school?

8 Ask for permission. Use *can*, *could* or *may*.

- Can I have some cake now, Mum? (have / some cake)
Yes, you *can*, dear.
-, Mr Barnes? (ask / you a question)
Of course you, Ian.
-, Sir? (open / the window)
No, you not, Tony. I'm sorry.
-, Mrs Rowland? (make / a phonecall)
By all means.
-, Miss? (take off / my jumper)
Yes, you, Angela. It is quite hot in here.
-, Vicky? (borrow / your umbrella)
No, you You never bring back the things you borrow!
-, Aunt Julia? (play / a game on your computer)
Not now, dear. I'm using it.
-, Miss? (leave / my bag here)
Yes, you, Jonathan.

9 Rewrite the sentences.

- 1 They can't play outside between 2 and 5 p.m. (allowed)
They aren't allowed to play outside between 2 and 5 p.m.
- 2 Children under five are not allowed to play in this area. (can't)
- 3 We are allowed to have one short break before lunch. (can)
- 4 I can only watch TV at the weekend. (allowed)
- 5 Visitors are not allowed to use this parking area. (can't)
- 6 You can't get off a London bus while it's moving. (allowed)
- 7 We are allowed to use the swimming pool. (can)
- 8 You can't take photos of the film with a camera or mobile phone. (allowed)

10 Complete the table.

Requests	
can / will	Can / you open the door for me?
could / would / Would you do me a favour, please?

11 Read the information.

Requests

- We use *can / will* to ask somebody to do something for us.

Will you make the coffee, please?

- We use *could / would* when we want to be more polite.

Could you help me with this exercise, Sir?

12 Make requests. An exclamation mark (!) means you have to be very polite.

- 1 Ask your dad to come to your school play.
Will you come to the school play, Dad?
- 2 Ask a stranger to tell you where the bookshop is. (!)
- 3 Ask your friend to come to your house.
- 4 Ask a schoolmate to lend you a pencil.
- 5 Ask the shop assistant to give you a bigger bag. (!)
- 6 Ask your teacher if you can speak to her after class. (!)
- 7 Ask your friend to lend you his camera.
- 8 Ask a neighbour to turn his music down. (!)

13 Complete the table.

Offers	
Shall I ...?	Shall bring you a cup of tea?
Can I ...? I help you?
Would you like ...?	Would you something to drink?

14 Read the information.

- We use *Shall I* and *Can I* in questions to offer to do something for someone.
Shall I answer the phone for you?
Can I make your bed?
- We use *Would you like ...?* to offer something to someone.
Would you like some cake?

15 Make offers.

Grandma Hardy is visiting for a few days. Everyone wants to make her more comfortable.

- 1 **Peter:** *Would you like* an extra cushion for your back? (would)
- 2 **Mr Hardy:** get you something to read? (can)
- 3 **Mr Hardy:** Are you cold? close the window? (shall)
- 4 **Lucy:** a cup of tea? (would)
- 5 **Peter:** These shoes don't look comfortable. bring you your slippers? (can)
- 6 **Mr Hardy:** some biscuits with your tea? (would)
- 7 **Lucy:** Your favourite show is on. turn on the TV? (shall)
- 8 **Mr Hardy:** I'm going to the supermarket. get you anything? (can)

16 Complete the table.

Suggestions	
<i>Let's ...</i>'s go to the cinema.
<i>Why don't ...?</i>	Why we go to the cinema?
<i>We could ...</i>	We go to the cinema.
<i>Shall we ...?</i> we go to the cinema?
<i>What about ...-ing?</i>	What going to the cinema?
<i>How about ...-ing?</i>	How about go to the cinema?

17 Read the information.

We make suggestions in many different ways.

- *Let's* and *Shall we ...?* always include the speaker in the suggestion.
- We use *Why don't (you / they, etc), (You / He etc) could ...* to make suggestions for other people to do something.

Compare the sentences:

Let's stay in and watch a DVD.

(= the speaker is included)

Why don't you both stay in and watch a DVD?

(= the speaker is not included)

18 Make suggestions.

- 1 **A:** I'm hungry.
B: *Let's make some sandwiches.* make some sandwiches **let's**
C: order a pizza **what**
- 2 **A:** What shall we do today?
B: go to the sports centre **why**
C: have a picnic by the lake **could**
- 3 **A:** We need to get some photos for our school project.
B: cut some out of some magazines **shall**
C: look for them on the Internet **how**

19 Complete with one word.

Peter is going on a school trip tomorrow.

Lucy: Hi! ¹ Can I help you pack?

Peter: I don't know. I ² fit all my things in one bag.

Lucy: You ³ put the rest in another bag.

Peter: We're only ⁴ to take one bag with us.

Lucy: What have you put in it?

Peter: I've put in my volleyball, my skates, my football boots and stuff.

Lucy: ⁵ don't you leave something out? The ball, for example?

Peter: No way!

Lucy: You ⁶ definitely not be able to fit anything else in the bag, but I've got an idea.

Peter: ⁷ you tell me this great idea of yours?

Lucy: Certainly. ⁸ you wear anything you like on the coach?

Peter: Yes, we ⁹ allowed to wear whatever we want.

Lucy: How ¹⁰ trying something I have in mind, then?



Writing practice

20 A good friend has sent Mrs Hardy the email below. Choose from the prompts and complete it.

you / water / my plants / while I'm away (request)

you / do / me / a favour (request)

you / go / with her (suggestion)

you / use / them (suggestion)

~~I / not use / the theatre tickets~~ (ability)

I / bring / you / anything from Spain (offer)

Hi, Irene

I'm going away to Madrid on some urgent business for a few days so

1 I won't be able to use the theatre tickets I bought for next Friday.

2 ? I know your mother in law is staying with you.

3 I'm sure she'd love the play.

4 ? 5 ? I promise to water yours when you go on holiday in the summer!

I'll drop the key and the tickets through your letter box on my way to the airport.

All the best,

Jane

P.S. 6 ?