

ENGLISH HOMEWORK (04/11/2021)

Ability, Permissions, Requests

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Ability	Permissions	Requests
Can Could Be able to Managed to	Can Could May Will Would	Can Could Will Would

Part 1: Ability

Timmy **can play** the piano.

When I was 7, I **could swim** more than 200 metres.

S + **Can
Could
Be able to
Managed to** + V (nguyên thể)

Usage

	Example	Meaning
1	How many languages can you speak ? I can run fast.	Ability in the present (can)
2	Sam couldn't walk until he was 18 months old. I could play the guitar when I was 10.	Ability in the past (could)
3	You will be able to make a speech at the end of this month.	Future ability (be able to)
4	The coach caught fire but all the passengers were able to/managed to escape .	Ability to do something difficult, with effort

Part 2: Permission

	Example	Meaning
1	You can go to the party, but you can't stay later 10 o'clock.	Can => give/refuse permission in the present
2	She was spoilt as a child – she could do anything she wanted.	Could Was/were allowed to => permission in the past
Note: permission at a specific time in the past => was/were allowed to Ex: I was allowed to go to the party last Friday, but I wasn't allowed to stay later than 10 o'clock.		
3	Can we stop and have a rest now, please? Could we finish early this Friday, please? May I take this book home?	Can Could => ask for permission to do <u>sth</u> May

Part 3: Requests

Example	Meaning
Can you explain this to me? Will you lend me your dictionary? Would you pass that book, please?	Can Could Will => ask someone to do something Would

PRACTICE

Exercise 1:

Modern technology

Complete this text about modern technology with *can*, *can't*, *could* or *couldn't*.

You can't⁰ deny that modern technology has changed our lives. With it, we can⁰ do things now that we¹ do at all only a few years ago. For example, 10 years ago you² only phone from a building or a telephone box but now we³ make a call wherever we are, and previously you⁴ only use telephones to make phone calls but now you⁵ also take photos with them. Of course, in the old days you⁶ take photos with a camera, but you⁷ take them without a film. Digital cameras⁸ take hundreds of photos without a film, though you still⁹ make copies of your photos without a printer. Another thing is music. A few years ago you¹⁰ only listen to your music collection at home but now, thanks to MP3 players, you¹¹ listen to it in the street or on the bus.

Exercise 2:

Generation differences

Complete this text by putting in each of the expressions in the blanks.

be able can can't can't could could
couldn't managed will be able were able

When my father was young, he didn't have much money so he could⁰ hardly afford any luxuries. I¹ remember exactly when he met my mother, but it was love at first sight. They worked in the same factory but they² see each other during the week because they worked different shifts. One day my mother said, "We³ be young lovers for ever. If we don't save some money, I don't know when we'll⁴ to get married." My father⁵ see that she was right: they had to do something. So he started working an extra shift at the weekend and my mother started to take evening classes to learn accountancy. She didn't have much time to study but at the end of the year she⁶ to pass the exam and get a job in the accounts department, which was better paid. After another six months they had enough savings and they⁷ to get a flat of their own. Things are easier for my generation. My sister and I⁸ buy almost anything we want. I hope my children⁹ to say the same.



Exercise 3:

How to be polite

Make these requests polite by using the modal in brackets, *you*, and *please*.

- 0 Tell Mrs Clarke that I've arrived. (would)

Would you tell Mrs Clarke that I've arrived, please?

- 1 Invite Mr Jones for an interview. (can)

- 2 Take a message. (could)

- 3 Ask Jim to email me. (would)

- 4 Collect the report from reception. (would)

Exercise 4:

A young worker talks to his boss

Cross out the incorrect options.

WORKER I *would like / want*⁰ to speak to you for a moment. *May / Do I*¹ come in?

BOSS I *can't / may not*² see you at the moment because I'm busy. *Can / May*³ you come at about 10 o'clock?

(Later)

WORKER *Could / Would*⁴ I have a word with you now?

BOSS Yes, come in. What *can / may*⁵ I do for you?

WORKER Well, today is my mother's birthday. Yesterday I finished work late. I *could / managed to*⁶ buy her a birthday card from the stationer's, but the big shops were closed so I *can't / couldn't*⁷ get her a present.

BOSS So you *want / would*⁸ to finish work early today so you *can / may*⁹ buy her a present. Is that it?

WORKER Yes, that's it exactly.

BOSS All right. But remember you won't *be able to / can*¹⁰ use the same excuse until next year!

