

UNIT 8 GRAMMAR PERMISSION AND OBLIGATION

Language notes

Grammar: could

- *Could* is a modal verb. In this unit, *could* is used to talk generally about permission in the past (i.e. that you were allowed to do something over a period of time in the past).
- As with all other modal verbs, *could* is followed by the infinitive (without *to*), and doesn't use *do/did* to form questions and negative statements. *Could you smoke at school?* (i.e. *Were you allowed to smoke?*) *No, we couldn't. It was against the rules. (i.e. We weren't allowed to smoke.)*

Grammar: have to

- *Have to* is used to talk about obligation/necessity (i.e. you're required to do something).
- *Have/had to* is followed by the infinitive. You use *do/did* to form questions and negative statements. *Did you have to do homework every day?* (i.e. *Was it necessary to do homework every day?*) *No, we didn't have to do it every day. Three times a week, usually. (i.e. It wasn't necessary to do it every day.)*

Permission

I **could** only watch TV on Sundays.
We **couldn't** talk in the library.
Could you bring friends home?

Obligation

He **had to** walk to school.
They **didn't have to** come home early.
Did you **have to** pay your tuition?

1. Complete the following table with the different forms of **can** and **have to**.

	Permission: can	
	Permitted	Not permitted
Present	You (1) <u>can</u>	You (3) _____
Past	You (2) _____	You (4) _____
	Obligation: have to	
	Necessary	Not necessary
Present	You (5) _____	You (7) _____
Past	You (6) _____	You (8) _____

2. Complete the questions and answers

- | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| a | <u>Did</u> Allie <u>have to</u> go to the library? | Yes, she <u>did</u> . | No, she <u>didn't</u> . |
| b | <u>Could</u> Allie take out eight books? | Yes, she <u>could</u> . | No, she <u>couldn't</u> . |
| c | _____ Allie _____ write with pen and paper? | Yes, she _____. | No, she _____. |
| d | _____ Aldo _____ leave school to get a job? | Yes, he _____. | No, he _____. |
| e | _____ Aldo get a job? | Yes, he _____. | No, he _____. |
| f | _____ Laura's mom go to college? | Yes, she _____. | No, she _____. |

3. Write the following sentences in the negative.

When I was fourteen, ...

- I **had to** make my bed every morning. I **didn't have to** make my bed every morning.
- I **could** wear whatever I wanted. I **couldn't** wear whatever I wanted.
- I had to keep my room neat and clean. _____
- I had to help my parents at home. _____
- I had to travel everywhere by bicycle. _____
- I could invite friends home on weekends. _____
- I could stay out after 10:00 p.m. _____
- I could play my music as loud as I wanted. _____

For each situation below, **Click on** the correct consequence.

- a. Emma's English teacher was sick.
Emma didn't have to go to school that day.
Emma couldn't go to school that day.
- b. It was a public holiday yesterday.
She didn't have to go to work.
She couldn't go to work.
- c. She wanted to go out, but her telephone wasn't working.
She didn't have to call anyone.
She couldn't call anyone.
- d. Her best friend was in Mexico on vacation.
She didn't have to go and see her.
She couldn't go and see her.
- e. It was too late to go to the movies.
She didn't have to go and see a movie.
She couldn't go and see a movie.
- f. She had a lot of food in the refrigerator.
She didn't have to buy any food.
She couldn't buy any food