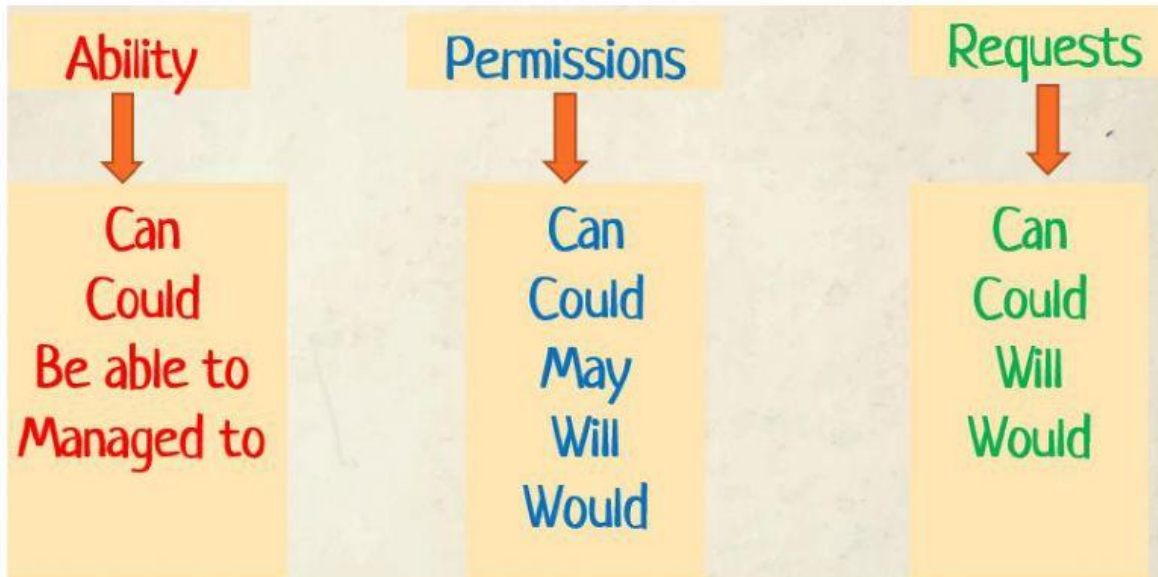


ENGLISH HOMEWORK (04/11/2021)

Ability, Permissions, Requests

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

## Part 2: Permission

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

## Part 3: Requests

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

### PRACTICE

#### Exercise 1:

### Modern technology

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

You can't<sup>0</sup> deny that modern technology has changed our lives. With it, we can<sup>0</sup> do things now that we .....<sup>1</sup> do at all only a few years ago. For example, 10 years ago you .....<sup>2</sup> only phone from a building or a telephone box but now we .....<sup>3</sup> make a call wherever we are, and previously you .....<sup>4</sup> only use telephones to make phone calls but now you .....<sup>5</sup> also take photos with them. Of course, in the old days you .....<sup>6</sup> take photos with a camera, but you .....<sup>7</sup> take them without a film. Digital cameras .....<sup>8</sup> take hundreds of photos without a film, though you still .....<sup>9</sup> make copies of your photos without a printer. Another thing is music. A few years ago you .....<sup>10</sup> only listen to your music collection at home but now, thanks to MP3 players, you .....<sup>11</sup> 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 could<sup>0</sup> hardly afford any luxuries. I .....<sup>1</sup> remember exactly when he met my mother, but it was love at first sight. They worked in the same factory but they .....<sup>2</sup> see each other during the week because they worked different shifts. One day my mother said, "We .....<sup>3</sup> be young lovers for ever. If we don't save some money, I don't know when we'll .....<sup>4</sup> to get married." My father .....<sup>5</sup> 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 she .....<sup>6</sup> 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 they .....<sup>7</sup> to get a flat of their own. Things are easier for my generation. My sister and I .....<sup>8</sup> buy almost anything we want. I hope my children .....<sup>9</sup> 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*<sup>0</sup> to speak to you for a moment. *May / Do I*<sup>1</sup> come in?

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

(Later)

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

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

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

BOSS So you *want / would*<sup>8</sup> to finish work early today so you *can / may*<sup>9</sup> 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*<sup>10</sup> use the same excuse until next year!

