

HOMEWORK (17/11/2021)

- CAN (ABILITY, REQUESTS, OFFERS, PERMISSIONS)
- COULD/WAS ABLE TO/MANAGED TO (ABILITY IN THE PAST)

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PART 1: CAN (ABILITY, REQUESTS, OFFERS, PERMISSIONS)

Here are some examples of can:

She **can speak** French and Arabic.

I **can't come** with you tonight, I'm afraid.

Can I have a small black coffee, please?

1. Form

POSITIVE

I/he/she/it/we/you/they **can** help.

NEGATIVE

I/he/she/it/you etc. **cannot/can't** help.

QUESTIONS

Can I/he/she/it/you etc. **use** your phone, please?

Example	Usage
1. I can dance, but I can't play the piano.	skills/abilities
2. Can I borrow your pen, please?	ask for things/make requests
3. Can I take you to the cinema?	offer to do things
4. You can't smoke here. Can we play football inside? –No, you can't .	permissions/rules

PART 2: COULD/WAS ABLE TO/MANAGED TO (ABILITY IN THE PAST)

Usage 1

Ex: Jim **could** swim when he was six.



We use **Could** to talk about **ability in the past**.

Usage 2

Ex: They **couldn't** find a hotel with a sea view.

There was a big fire in that building, but we **were able to/managed to** escape from it.



We use **Couldn't/was or were able to/managed to** to talk about ability to do something **at a particular moment in the past**.

Note

We form positive sentences with was/were able to like this:

was/were able to + verb

He **was able to go**.

They **were able to go**.

PRACTICE

Exercise 1:

Talking about our skills

Alida from Hungary is spending a month in America with Grace, Ryan and their five-year old son, Mickey. Add **can** in positive, negative or question form to the words in brackets, and complete the conversation.

GRACE Ryan is going to make some special hamburgers for us tonight.

Can you cook ⁰ (you/cook), Alida?

ALIDA ¹ (I/make) a nice salad, but ² (I/not/do) any interesting Hungarian dishes, I'm afraid. They're too difficult.

MICKEY³ (you/play) basketball or baseball, Alida?
 GRACE Say 'no', Alida, or you'll spend every day in the garden with Mickey.
 ALIDA⁴ (I/not/play) basketball or baseball, Mickey, but
⁵ (I/skate).
 MICKEY On ice? That's fantastic!⁶ (you/play) snooker too, Alida?
 We've got a new snooker table!
 ALIDA No, I can't, I'm afraid.

Exercise 2:

D Making requests and offers at a friend's house

James is staying in Hanoi with Tam and Minh. Add these phrases to their conversation:

Can you take some books I can make some food Can you pass me
 Can I give them I can take you Can I do anything can you bring Can I help

JAMES Can you pass me ⁰ the rice, please?
 TAM Sure. You need to eat before your journey.¹ to the station on my bike in the morning.
 JAMES That's very kind of you, Tam.
 MINH And² for you to take. The food on the train is terrible!
 JAMES Thank you very much.³ for you while I'm in Ho Chi Minh city?
 TAM Actually, there is something, James.⁴ for my sister? I could post them, but it takes a long time.
 JAMES No problem.
 TAM Thanks.⁵ to you now? I'll forget in the morning!
 JAMES Of course!⁶ with anything else?
 TAM Well, if you're sure it's no trouble,⁷ my blue suitcase back from my sister's house? She borrowed it when she moved.
 JAMES It's not a problem. I'm pleased to be able to help.

Exercise 3:

Talking about last week

Holly and Eva are having a meal together on Sunday evening in their flat. Add the correct phrases to the conversation.

HOLLY Did you have a good week, Eva?
 EVA Not bad, thanks. I was able to talk ⁰ (I was able talk/I was able to talk) to my boss about my trip to Paris. She's normally so busy.¹
 (We were able to finish/We able to finish) my schedule of meetings.
 HOLLY That's great. When do you leave?
 EVA² (We were managed to book/We managed to book) a flight for 1 p.m on Tuesday. I'm looking forward to it. What about your week?

- HOLLY It was OK.³ (I couldn't to sleep/I couldn't sleep) at night at the beginning of the week, because it was so hot.
- EVA I know.⁴ (I managed to buy/I managed buy) a fan at the shops. You can borrow it when I'm in Paris, if you like. What about your room? Are you comfortable there now?
- HOLLY Yes, thanks.⁵ (I was able buy/I was able to buy) a beautiful new rug on Saturday, and my sister gave me a lamp. But⁶ (I couldn't find/I couldn't to find) a mirror.

Exercise 4:

Moving flat

We use *could* for polite requests, suggestions, and general ability in the past. We use *was/were able to*, *managed to* and *couldn't* for past ability at particular moments. Add the following phrases to this email:

managed could couldn't could sleep managed to
could put could eat ~~you help~~ could you were able to

Hi Amy

I'm moving flat on Monday. Could you help ⁰ me? On Friday I¹ book a removals van, but I² find any boxes in town. When I was a student, I³ all my things in one box, but now I need ten! Anyway, I phoned my friend Jake yesterday morning, and we⁴ get some boxes from his sister – she moved flat a month ago. And in the afternoon, we⁵ to sell my old bed to Jake's brother for £20! He's going to start university in September. So I need to buy a new bed quickly. I⁶ on the floor for a week or two when I was younger, but not now! Anyway,⁷ help me for an hour or so on Sunday morning? I need some advice in the kitchen: I could take all my old plates, cups and knives and forks to the new flat, or I⁸ throw them away! What do you think? We⁹ a pizza afterwards, if you like. Look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes, Fred