

ENGLISH HOMEWORK (18/11/2021)

CAN, COULD, WOULD (ABILITY, REQUESTS, PERMISSIONS)

Tổng hợp kiến thức

PART 1: ABILITY

Example	Usage
1. I can dance, but I can't sing. I can do it tomorrow.	1. can/can't => skills/abilities (present/future)
2. I will be able to see you on Friday, but I won't be able to see you on Monday.	2. Will/won't be able to => something will/won't be possible in the future
3. She could play the piano when she was young, but she couldn't play the guitar.	3. Could/couldn't => ability in the past

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



We use **Was or were able to/managed to** to talk about ability to do something **at a particular moment in the past**.

Part 2: REQUESTS, PERMISSIONS

We use **can, could, may, and would** in questions:

Can I help you?

Could I borrow your pen, please?

May I ask a question?

Could you phone back later?

Would you wait for a moment, please?

a. Requests

- **Can you** be quiet?
- **Could/Would you** wait for a moment, please?

=> **Ask somebody to do something (requests)**

b. Permissions

- **Can I** have a go now?
- **May I** go out, please?

=> **Asking for permissions**

- You **can park** here = You **are allowed to park** here.
- I **can't use** my dad's computer = **I'm not allowed to use** my dad's computer.

=> **Giving/Refusing permissions**

PRACTICE

Exercise 1:

Language ability

Complete this description of a personal experience using *can*, *can't*, *could* or *couldn't* and the verbs in brackets.

I can remember⁰ (remember) my first year of living in this country very clearly.
When I first arrived here, I¹ (speak) the language very well. I²
(understand) a few words and phrases and I³ (go) shopping but I
.....⁴ (have) real conversations with people. Then I took a course and now I
.....⁵ (speak) the language quite well. I⁶ (make) friends and I
.....⁷ (do) most things I want to do. Sometimes I⁸ (remember)
certain words but usually I⁹ (think of) the right word and people
.....¹⁰ (understand) what I'm saying.

Exercise 2:

Problems on the trip

Complete this description of a trip using *were able to*, *managed to* or *couldn't* and the verbs in brackets.

We had some bad problems on our trip. First of all, we couldn't get⁰ (get) a taxi to the airport because they were all busy. We rang lots of numbers and eventually we¹ (get) one and we² (arrive) at the airport just in time. When we arrived at the other end, we³ (find) a trolley for all our bags but we⁴ (carry) them to the bus. We⁵ (find) our hotel without any problems so that was good. The next day, we⁶ (book) a tour of the city and we⁷ (see) all the famous sights. Unfortunately, we⁸ (take) any photos because the camera wasn't working. The next day, I⁹ (get) any money because I¹⁰ (use) my card in any of the cash machines. After several hours, we¹¹ (find) a bank which accepted my card, which was lucky. At the end of the trip, we¹² (come) home without any problems, I'm pleased to say!

Exercise 3:

In a restaurant

Complete the questions asked in a restaurant, using the words in brackets. There is more than one way of completing each question.

- | | | | |
|----|----------|-----------------------------|--|
| 0 | WAITER | <u>Can/Could/May I take</u> | your coat, sir? (I/take) |
| 0 | CUSTOMER | <u>Could/Can we sit</u> | at a table by the window? (we/sit) |
| 1 | CUSTOMER | ..... | me the menu please? (you/show) |
| 2 | CUSTOMER | ..... | me what this dish is, please? (you/tell) |
| 3 | WAITER | ..... | the chef's special, madam? (I/recommend) |
| 4 | CUSTOMER | ..... | now, please? (I/order) |
| 5 | WAITER | ..... | your order now? (I/take) |
| 6 | CUSTOMER | ..... | to another table, please? (we/move) |
| 7 | CUSTOMER | ..... | my order please? (I/change) |
| 8 | CUSTOMER | ..... | me another knife, please? (you/bring) |
| 9 | CUSTOMER | ..... | some more bread, please? (we/have) |
| 10 | CUSTOMER | ..... | me the bill, please? (you/get) |

Exercise 4:

Home rules

Complete this interview with a child in a children's magazine about what he is permitted to do at home. Change 'can/can't' to 'be allowed to' and 'be allowed to' to 'can/can't'.

(Can you eat) Are you allowed to eat⁰ meals
in front of the TV?

(We aren't allowed to do) We can't do⁰ that
usually but (we're allowed to do)¹
it if there's a special programme on TV.

(Are you allowed to watch)²
films on your own?

(I can't watch)³ violent films.
One of my friends, Ben, (is allowed to watch)
.....⁴ anything he wants, but

(I can't do)⁵ that. (I can watch)
.....⁶ films for my age but (I'm not
allowed to watch)⁷ (films for
teenagers or adults.

(Can you play)⁸ computer
games on school days?

(I'm allowed to play)⁹ computer
games when I get home but (I'm not allowed to play)
.....¹⁰ them for more than half an
hour on school days.