'Can' and 'could'

As we have seen, can and could have different functions.

Match the meanings with the example sentences.

Impossibility: present // a guess about the past // a general fact // a fact about the past // a guess about the present // a past event that was possible but didn't happen // impossibility: past

Elephants CAN BE very dangerous.

A hundred years ago, flu COULD BE very dangerous.

Your keys COULD BE in your other jacket

They're 30 minutes late. They COULD HAVE GOT lost.

This bill CAN'T BE correct. It's too much.

You CAN'T/COULDN'T HAVE SEEN me yesterday. I was at home all day.

They arrived over an hour late. They COULD HAVE PHONED us!

Giving permission // offering: more polite // ability: past // requesting // no permission // asking for permission // ability: present // asking for permission: more polite // offering // requesting: more polite

My father CAN PLAY the violin.

My mother COULDN'T DRIVE until she was 40.

CAN I MAKE a suggestion?

COULD I USE this phone for a moment?

You CAN HAVE a break now.

You CAN'T PARK here.

CAN YOU GIVE this letter to Fay?

COULD YOU PASS me the salt, please?

I CAN DO the shopping if you like.

COULD I MAKE you a cup of tea?