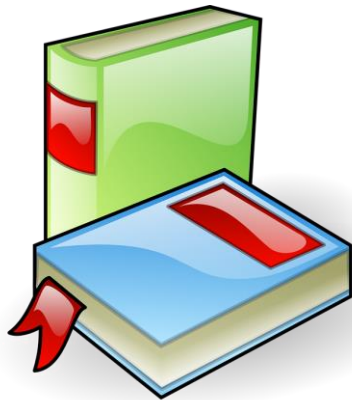


# MODAL VERBS

## CAN & COULD



ENGLISH  
GRAMMAR

# OUTLINE: CAN and COULD

1. General characteristics of CAN
2. Affirmative, negative and interrogative forms of CAN
3. General characteristics of COULD
4. Affirmative, negative and interrogative forms of COULD

# Step 1: Characteristics of CAN

1. CAN is used in the present tense.
  - *I can swim.*
2. A verb stem always follows CAN.
  - *He can dance very well.*
3. We do not add 'TO' after CAN.
  - *She can ~~to~~ speak Spanish.*
4. Additionally, CAN is able to replace other auxiliary verbs.
  - *How can I help you?*

# MODAL VERB (CAN)

AFFIRMATIVE FORM					
I	You	He/She/It	We	You	They
<b>can</b>					

NEGATIVE FORM (FULL AND SHORT FORMS)							
I	You	He	She	It	We	You	They
<b>cannot</b> <b>can't</b>							

INTERROGATIVE FORM							
<b>Can</b>							
I	you	he	she	it	we	you	they
<b>go?</b>							



# Step 2: Affirmative Form of CAN

1. CAN is used to express **possibility** in the present. (LIKELY)

- *He can come today.*
- *She can succeed in her project.*
- *You can become an English teacher.*

2. CAN is used to express **ability** in the present. (ABLE TO)

- *He can swim.*
- *My sister can ride a bike.*
- *They can speak several languages.*

# Step 3: Negative Form of CAN

1. CAN is used to express **impossibility** in the present. (UNLIKELY)
  - *He can't come today.*
  - *She cannot succeed in her project.*
2. CAN is used to express **inability** in the present. (UNABLE TO)
  - *I can't ski. I don't know how to do this.*
  - *They can't speak several languages.*
3. CAN is used to express **prohibition** in the present. (NOT ALLOWED TO)
  - *She can't go out. She's grounded.*
  - *They cannot smoke here. It is forbidden.*

# Step 4: Interrogative Form of CAN

1. CAN is used to ask for **permission** in the present. (FROM SOMEONE)
  - *Can I go to the bathroom, teacher?*
2. CAN is used to ask questions in conditional sentences. (HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION)
  - *Can you help me if I pay you?*
3. CAN is used to ask for **information**. (WH- QUESTIONS)
  - *What can I do to make you feel happy?*
4. CAN is used to make **requests** and **offers**. (TO SOMEONE)
  - *Can you help me with my homework?* (Request)
  - *Can I drive you to the airport?* (Offer)

# Step 5: Characteristics of **COULD**

1. **COULD** is used in the past tense.
  - *I could speak Italian with my nanny.*
2. **COULD** is also used in second conditionals.
  - *If I won the lottery, I could buy a big house.*
3. A verb stem always follows **COULD**.
  - *He could **dance** very well.*
4. We do not add '**TO**' after **COULD**.
  - *She could ~~to~~ speak Spanish.*
5. Other auxiliary verbs can be replaced by **COULD**.
  - *How could you do this to me?*



# MODAL VERB (COULD)

AFFIRMATIVE FORM					
I	You	He/She/It	We	You	They
<b>could</b>					

NEGATIVE FORM (FULL AND SHORT FORMS)							
I	You	He	She	It	We	You	They
<b>could not couldn't</b>							

INTERROGATIVE FORM							
<b>Could</b>							
I	you	he	she	it	we	you	they
<b>go?</b>							



# Step 6: Affirmative Form of **COULD**

1. COULD is used to express **possibility** in the past. (LIKELY)

- *He could have come that day.*

2. COULD is used to express **possibility** in the future. (CHANCE)

- *I could come tomorrow.*

3. COULD is used to express **possibility** in the future in **conditional sentences**.

- *She could change her mind, if you talked to her.*

HYPOTHESIS

4. COULD is used to express **ability** in the past. (ABLE TO)

- *He could swim very well by the age of six.*

# Step 7: Negative Form of **COULD**

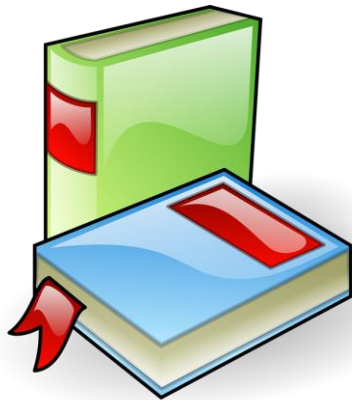
1. COULD is used to express **impossibility** in the past. **(UNLIKELY)**
  - *He couldn't have come that day.*
2. COULD is used to express **impossibility** in the past in third conditionals. **(HYPOTHESIS)**
  - *He could have come that day, if I had invited him to.*
3. COULD is used to express **prohibition** in the past. **(NOT ALLOWED)**
  - *They couldn't smoke there. It was forbidden.*
4. COULD is used to express **inability** in the past. **(UNABLE TO)**
  - *She couldn't speak for days after the operation.*

# Step 8: Interrogative Form of **COULD**

1. COULD is used to ask questions about **possibility in the future**. (LIKELIHOOD)
  - *What could make you happy?*
2. COULD is used to ask questions in **conditional sentences**. (HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION)
  - *How could I help you if you were very sick.*
3. COULD is used to ask for **permission** in a polite way. (FROM SOMEONE)
  - *Could we stay here?*
4. COULD is used to make polite **requests** and **offers**. (TO SOMEONE)
  - *Could you help me with my homework?* (Request)
  - *Could I drive you to the airport?* (Offer)

# MODAL VERBS

## CAN & COULD



ENGLISH  
GRAMMAR



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