Modals

⇨ **Can/Could**

> "**Can**" and "**could**" are both modal verbs used in English to express **ability**, **permission**, **request**, **suggestion**, and **possibility**. They are used frequently in spoken and written English.

⇨ **"Can" Usage:**

    A. Ability: "Can" is used to express ability or capability in the present tense.

       For example: "I can speak English fluently."

    B. Permission: "Can" is also used to ask for permission to do something.

       For example: "Can I borrow your pen?"

    C. Possibility: "Can" can also express possibility.

       For example: "It can be difficult to learn a new language."

⇨ **"Could" Usage:**

    A. Ability: "Could" is used to express past ability or capability.

       For example: "When I was younger, I could run very fast."

    B. Polite Request: "Could" is used to make polite requests.

       For example: "Could you please pass me the salt?"

    C. Possibility: "Could" is also used to express possibility in the past.

       For example: "I thought I could finish the project on time, but I was wrong."

⇨ **Differences between "Can" and "Could":**

"Can" is used to express ability in the present, while "could" is used to express ability in the past.

- "Can" is used to ask for permission in the present, while "could" is used to make polite requests in the present or to express possibility in the past.

- "Could" is generally considered more polite than "can" when making requests.

Read the following sentences

- "Can you help me with my homework?" (asking for help in the present)

- "I could swim when I was younger." (past ability)

- "Could I have a glass of water, please?" (polite request)

- "She couldn't come to the party last night because she was sick." (past possibility)