

Modals

Could

1)It is used to talk about past ability.

I could run fast when I was young.

Chiranjeevi could dance well in his younger days.

Zahir khan could bowl fast when he was in Indian cricket team.

2)Couldn't is used to talk about past inability.

I couldn't speak English before joining the course.

She couldn't cook well before the marriage.

He couldn't drive a four wheeler two years ago.

I couldn't lift the table in my childhood but now I can lift it easily.

We couldn't meet the minister yesterday.

I couldn't come to class yesterday because of high fever.

3)When we achieve a difficult task.

There was a lot of competition but I could get the government job.

I came from Telugu medium background but I could learn English.

It was a very difficult question but I could answer correctly.

It was a big problem but we could solve it cleverly.

We could watch the movie on the first day itself.

4)As the past form of 'can' in Indirect speech.

He said that he could get the first rank.

She told me that she could help me.

5.To make a polite request

Could you please help me?

Could you help me,please?

Sure/Yes,of course.

I am sorry.I can't.

Could you please explain the topic again?

Could you please show me the way to the railway station?

Could you do it for me please?

Could you please come with me?

6.To take permission in a polite manner.

Could I take the file?

Yes,you can/Yes,you may/Yes,of course.

No,you can't/No,you may not.

Could I use your computer?

Could we sit here?

Could I ask you a doubt?

Could I talk to the manager?

7.Used to express possibility,especially slight or uncertain possibility.

They could come anytime.

He could be arrested.

She could finish the work soon.

The tablet could work effectively.

8.To suggest a possible action

You could/can take them to Tank Bund.

We could have non-veg.

We could go to IMAX if you want.

You could go walking.It is nearby.

Modals(for practice)

To make a polite request

1	2	3
Could	you	please help me? come with me,please? show me the way to the railway station? explain the topic again? wait for me,please? lend me some money? give me your book? drop me at college? inform me before starting a new batch? explain about the course? please suggest me how to brush up my language?

Reply: Sure/yes,of course

I am sorry.I can't/No,I can't

To take permission in a polite manner

1	2	3
Could	I we	sit here? use the computer? use the pool? talk to you a minute? ask you a doubt? allow them inside? start the work? call it a day? resume the work? keep the bag here? stay here until you finish the work?

Reply:Yes,you can/Yes,of course.You can/Yes,you may/No,you can't/No,you may not.