Could

**Could** has various uses:  
  
•  Past of **can**:

**When I was younger, I could walk for miles.** When I was younger, I was able to walk long distances.

•  Present Conditional:

**I could stay with her all my life.** I would be happy, I would like to stay with her all my life.

**He could be here with us if he weren't abroad all the time.** He would be able to be here with us if he weren't abroad all the time.

•  Possibility: similar to **can**, but **could** emphasizes doubt:

**He could be right.** Maybe he is right (we are not sure).

•  Politeness:

**Could I have some change please?**

**Could you pass me the bread please?**

\* “To chicken out” means ‘to decide not to do something because you are too frightened’.