

Ability and Habit Modals Exercises

► Practice 13. Ability: *can* and *could*. (Chart 10-6)

Complete the sentences with *can*, *can't*, *could*, or *couldn't*.

1. Fish _____ talk.
2. My uncle was a wonderful craftsman. He made beautiful things out of wood. But he _____ read or write because he never went to school.
3. An illiterate person is someone who _____ neither read nor write.
4. I _____ get to sleep last night because it was too hot in my room.
5. Why _____ all the nations of the world just get along in peace? Why are there always wars somewhere on earth?
6. When I was younger, I _____ stay up past midnight and get up at dawn feeling refreshed and ready to go. I _____ do that any longer now that I'm middle-aged.

► Practice 14. Repeated action in the past (Chart 10-7)

Complete the sentences with *would* and a verb from the list. Use the words in parentheses.

bring	fall	sleep	tell	wipe
come	listen	stay	throw	yell

1. I'll always remember Miss Emerson, my fifth-grade teacher. Sometimes a student _____ asleep in her class. Whenever that happened, Miss Emerson _____ a piece of chalk at the student!
2. My father never liked to talk on the phone. Whenever it rang, he (*always*) _____, "I'm not here!" Usually, he was only joking and _____ to the phone when it was for him.
3. I have fond childhood memories of my Aunt Betsy. Whenever she came to visit, she (*always*) _____ me a little present.
4. Some people have strange habits. For example, my Uncle Oscar, who lived with us when I was a child, (*always*) _____ his plate with his napkin whenever he sat down to a meal.
5. When I was in college, I acquired some bad habits. I didn't study until the night before a test, and then I _____ up all night studying. Then the next day after the test, I _____ all afternoon.
6. I'll never forget the wonderful evenings I spent with my grandparents when I was a child. My grandmother _____ stories of her childhood seventy years ago, and we _____ intently and question her for every detail.

PRACTICE 13, p. 103

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| 1. can't | 4. couldn't |
| 2. couldn't | 5. can't |
| 3. can | 6. could ... can't |

PRACTICE 14, p. 104

1. would fall ... would throw
2. would always yell ... would come
3. would always bring
4. would always wipe
5. would stay ... would sleep
6. would tell ... would listen