

Lesson 2:

Auxiliary Verbs - "Can/Could", "May/Might", and "Must"

1. Can

1- Expressing Ability:

Used to show someone's ability to do something.

Structure: Subject + can + base verb.

Examples:

- I can make jewelry.
- He can't speak French.
- Can you open this jar?

2- Asking for Permission:

Used when seeking informal permission.

Examples:

- Can I use your bathroom?
- Can I leave now?
- Can I raise the volume?

- Making Requests or Suggestions:

Used for making polite requests or suggestions.

Examples:

- Can I have more wipes?
- Can I have the bill?
- You can take this spot if you like.
- You can do whatever you want.

2. Could (Past form of "Can")

1- Describing Past Ability:

Used to describe something someone was able to do in the past.

Examples:

- I could swim when I was young.
- You could see the boat sinking.
- They could tell he was nervous.

2- Making Polite Requests:

Used for polite requests, often more formal than "can".

Examples:

- Could I take this jacket with me?
- Could you please let me pass you?
- Could I get you more water?

3- Expressing Possibility:

Used to indicate something is possible.

Examples:

- All of them could ride in the van.
- You could always stay at our house.
- Could it be true?
- This plan could really work out.

3. May

- Asking for Formal Permission:

Used to seek permission in a more formal way than "can".

Examples:

- May I come in?
- May I say something now?
- May I ask one question?

- Expressing Possibility:

Used to suggest something that is likely or possible.

Examples:

- She may agree with this plan.
- They may not be happy about what happened.
- It may shower tonight.

4. Might (Past form of "May")

- Expressing a Smaller Possibility:

Used to suggest a lower chance of something happening than "may".

Examples:

- He might have finished it.
- I might go see a doctor.
- I might not come this time.

5. Must

- Expressing Necessity or Requirement:

Used when something is necessary or required.

Examples:

- I must complete the project by this week.
- The government must provide health care for everybody.
- Everyone must save the natural resources of the earth.
- The building must have a fire alarm.
- You must answer my question right now.

- Expressing Strong Likelihood:

Used to indicate a strong assumption or belief.

Examples:

- He must be a genius.
- You must be joking!
- She must be very tired.

Summary of Key Uses:

- **Can:** Expresses ability, permission, and requests.
- **Could:** Describes past ability, polite requests, and possibility.
- **May:** Used for formal permission and possibility.
- **Might:** Suggests a lower possibility than "may."
- **Must:** Expresses necessity or strong likelihood.

Practice Exercises:

- 1- I _____ speak three languages. (Can/Could)
- 2- _____ I borrow your pen, please? (Can/Could)
- 3- It _____ rain later today. (May/Might)
- 4- You _____ submit the report by tomorrow. (Must)
- 5- When I was younger, I _____ run for hours. (Can/Could)