

could

[kʌd (полная форма); kəd (редуцированная форма)]

1. *past of can*2. *с простым инфинитивом **обыкн.** в условных предложениях выражает реальную возможность :*

he could do it if he wanted - он мог /мог бы/ это сделать, если бы захотел

I could come earlier, if necessary - я мог бы прийти пораньше, если нужно

I really couldn't think of it - я даже и подумать об этом не смел

she could make the report, if she liked - она смогла бы сделать доклад, если бы захотела

3. *с перфектным инфинитивом выражает*1) *неосуществлённую возможность в прошлом:*he could have done it a week ago - он мог бы это сделать неделю назад (*но не сделал*)2) *предположение со значительной степенью неуверенности (в утвердительных предложениях):*

he could have done it - может быть, он и сделал это

3) *большую степень сомнения (в вопросительных и отрицательных предложениях):*

could it be true? - неужели (это правда)?

could he have meant it? - неужели он говорил это серьёзно?; неужели он имел это в виду?

she couldn't have done it! - неужели же она это сделала?

4. *выражает просьбу в вежливой форме:*

could you lend me a shilling? - не можете ли вы одолжить мне шиллинг?

could I have some more bread? - могу ли я попросить у вас ещё хлеба?, пожалуйста, передайте мне ещё хлеба

could you tell me the right time? - не можете ли вы сказать мне, который (сейчас) час?

5. *со словами, передающими различные эмоции, выражает желание, склонность :*

I could cry for shame - я готов был заплакать от стыда

he could sing for joy - ему хотелось петь от радости

could

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

could [kɔːld] *BrE* [kəd] ^m *NAmE* [kəd] ^m *BrE strong form* [kʌd] ^m *AmE strong form* [kʌd] ^m *modal verb* (negative **could not**, short form **couldn't** *BrE* ['kʌdnt] ^m ; *NAmE* ['kʌdnt] ^m)

1. used as the past tense of 'can'

- She said that she couldn't come.
- I couldn't hear what they were saying.
- Sorry, I couldn't get any more.

2. used to ask if you can do sth

- Could I use your phone, please?
- Could we stop by next week?

3. used to politely ask sb to do sth for you

- Could you babysit for us on Friday?

4. used to show that sth is or might be possible

- I could do it now, if you like.
- Don't worry— they could have just forgotten to call.
- You couldn't have left it on the bus, could you?
- 'Have some more cake.' 'Oh, I couldn't, thank you (= I'm too full) .'

5. used to suggest sth

- We could write a letter to the director.
- You could always try his home number.

6. used to show that you are annoyed that sb did not do sth

- They could have let me know they were going to be late!

7. (*informal*) used to emphasize how strongly you want to express your feelings

- I'm so fed up I could scream!

Idiom: ↑**could do with something**Grammar Point:**modal verbs**

The modal verbs are can, could, may, might, must, ought to, shall, should, will and would. Dare, need, have to and used to also share some of the features of modal verbs.

Modal verbs have only one form. They have no **-ing** or **-ed** forms and do not add **-s** to the 3rd person singular form: ▫ He can speak three languages. ◇ ▫ She will try and visit tomorrow.

Modal verbs are followed by the infinitive of another verb without **to**. The exceptions are **ought to** and **used to**: ▫ You must find a job. ◇ ▫ You ought to stop smoking. ◇ ▫ I used to smoke but I gave up two years ago.

Questions are formed without **do/does** in the present, or **did** in the past: ▫ Can I invite Mary? ◇ ▫ Should I have invited Mary?

Negative sentences are formed with **not** or the short form **-n't** and do not use **do/does** or **did**.

You will find more help with how to use modal verbs at the dictionary entries for each verb

Grammar Point:**can / could / be able to / manage**

Can is used to say that somebody knows how to do something: ▫ Can you play the piano? It is also used with verbs of seeing, noticing, etc: ▫ I can hear someone calling , and with passive infinitives: ▫ The DVD can be rented from your local store.

Can or be able to are used to say that something is possible or that somebody has the opportunity to do something: ▫ Can you/are you able to come on Saturday?

You use **be able to** to form the future and perfect tenses and the infinitive: ▪ You'll be able to get a taxi outside the station. ◊▪ I haven't been able to get much work done today. ◊▪ She'd love to be able to play the piano.

Could is used to talk about what someone was generally able to do in the past: ▪ Our daughter could walk when she was nine months old.

You use **was/were able to** or **manage** (but not **could**) when you are saying that something was possible on a particular occasion in the past: ▪ I was able to/managed to find some useful books in the library. ◊I could find some useful books in the library. In negative sentences, **could not** can also be used: ▪ We weren't able to/didn't manage to/couldn't get there in time. **Could** is also used with this meaning with verbs of seeing, noticing, understanding, etc.: ▪ I could see there was something wrong.

Could have is used when you are saying that it was possible for somebody to do something in the past but they did not try: ▪ I could have won the game but decided to let her win.

could

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

could **S1 W1** /kəd; *strong* kʊd/ *BrE* ^ˈ *AmE* ^ˈ *modal verb* (negative short form **couldn't**)

[**Language:** Old English; **Origin:** cuthe, past tense of cunnan (⇒ ↑**can**¹); influenced by should and would]

1. PAST ABILITY used as the past tense of 'can' to say what someone was able to do or was allowed to do in the past:

- By the time she was eight, she could read Greek and Latin.
- In those days you could buy a box of cigars for a dollar.
- Could you hear what I was saying?
- I couldn't get tickets after all, they were sold out.
- I knew I couldn't afford the rent.
- The teacher said we could all go home.

2. POSSIBILITY

a) used to say that something is possible or might happen:

- Most accidents in the home could be prevented.
- It could be weeks before we get a reply.
- If you're not careful, you could get into even worse trouble.
- A faulty connection could easily (=would be likely to) cause a fire.

b) used to say that something was a possibility in the past, but did not actually happen:

- Somebody could have been killed.
- I could have warned you if I had known where you were.
- He could have escaped, but he chose to stand and fight.

3. EMPHASIZING YOUR FEELINGS *spoken* used to emphasize how happy, angry etc you are by saying how you want to express your feelings:

- He irritates me so much I could scream.
- I was so angry I could have killed her.
- I was so relieved I could have kissed them all.

4. REQUESTING *spoken* used to make a polite request:

- Could you help me with these boxes?
- Could I have a drink of water, please?
- How about Sam? Could he come along too?
- I wonder if I could just ask you to sign this.

5. SUGGESTING used to suggest doing something:

- You could ask your doctor for a check-up.
- You could always try phoning her at the office.
- Maybe we could get together sometime next week?
- Couldn't you get one of your friends to help you?

6. ANNOYANCE *spoken* used to show that you are annoyed about someone's behaviour:

- You could have told me you were going to be late (=you should have told me but you did not)!
- You could at least say that you're sorry.
- How could you be so stupid!

7. couldn't be better/worse/more pleased etc used to emphasize how good, bad etc something is:

- Their lifestyles couldn't be more different.
- 'How are things?' 'Fine! Couldn't be better.'
- Ordering online couldn't be simpler.

8. I couldn't *British English spoken* used to politely say that you do not want any more food or drink:

- 'Would you like another piece of pie?' 'Oh, no thanks, I couldn't.'

9. could do with something *spoken* to need or want something:

- I could do with a hot drink.

⇒ **could do worse (than)** at ↑**worse**¹(5), ⇒ **couldn't care less** at ↑**care**²(5), ⇒ **couldn't agree more** at ↑**agree**(1)

could

Freakuency Pack

12500 **55**^{MCW}

15000 **65**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** **COULD** 645387

could 645219

couldn 168

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

125073 **70**⁶⁴⁴⁹⁶⁹ *vm*

142-61547¹⁵⁰ *jj*
71-88744⁷⁴ *nn1*
18-172592²¹ *nnu*
5-391042⁵ *pphis1*
