



## the Modal Verb 'Could'

2<sup>nd</sup>

# could

2 <sup>nd</sup> the modal verb 'could'		
tag:	usage:	emphasis:
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.1	is used to indicate the mental/physical ability/inability to do something in ● the past	Ⓐ ability or Ⓘ inability
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.2	is used to indicate that something sometimes happened or that something sometimes was true in ● the past	Ⓜ sometimes happened or Ⓜ sometimes was true
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.3	is used to indicate a polite request, a suggestion, or the right to do something	Ⓟ polite request, Ⓜ suggestion, or Ⓟ the right
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.4	is used to indicate a possibility or an opportunity to do something	Ⓟ possibility or Ⓟ opportunity
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.5	is used to indicate surprise, shock, doubt, anger, or annoyance	Ⓜ surprise, Ⓜ shock, Ⓓ doubt, Ⓐ anger, or Ⓐ annoyance
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.6	is used to indicate a desire to do something	Ⓓ desire
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.7	is used to indicate the past, present, or future possibility	Ⓟ past, Ⓟ present, or Ⓟ future Ⓟ possibility
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.8	is used to imagine a situation that was unlikely to happen or is unlikely to happen, and, often, the situation's possible consequences	Ⓜ unlikely situation

2<sup>nd</sup> M2.1

The 1<sup>st</sup> example, i.e. 'He could not read when he was ten.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.1 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in - the negative] indicates that the subject did not have the ability to perform the action. The 2<sup>nd</sup> example, i.e. 'He could not do it.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.1 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in - the negative] indicates that the subject did not have the ability to perform the action. The 3<sup>rd</sup> example, i.e. 'She could not have done it by herself.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.1 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in - the negative] indicates that the subject did not have the ability to perform the action. The 4<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'She could not swim when she was twenty.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.1 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in - the negative] indicates that the subject did not have the ability to perform the action. The 5<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'I could not cook when I was young.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.1 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in - the negative] indicates that the subject did not have the ability to perform the action.

tag:	examples:	emphasis:
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.1	1 <sup>st</sup> He could not read when he was ten.	Ⓐ ability or Ⓘ inability
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.1	2 <sup>nd</sup> He could not do it.	
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.1	3 <sup>rd</sup> She could not have done it by herself.	
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.1	4 <sup>th</sup> She could not swim when she was twenty.	
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.1	5 <sup>th</sup> I could not cook when I was young.	
usage:		
is used to indicate the mental/physical ability/inability to do something in ● the past		

2<sup>nd</sup> M2.2

The 6<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'He could be nasty sometimes.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.2 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates that the subject's description was true sometimes in ● the past. The 7<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'Occasionally, he could be seen walking for hours.', 2<sup>nd</sup>

M2.2 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates that the subject occasionally performed the action for a specific amount of time in ● the past. The 8<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'He could be both funny and sad.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.2 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates that the subject's description was true in ● the past. The 9<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'She could be very helpful.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.2 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates that the subject's description was true sometimes in ● the past. The 10<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'She could be unwell after a drink.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.2 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates that the subject's description was true sometimes in ● the past.

tag:	examples:			emphasis:
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.2	6 <sup>th</sup>	He could be nasty sometimes.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">           Ⓢ sometimes happened or ⓈⓂⓉ sometimes was true         </div>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.2	7 <sup>th</sup>	Occasionally, he could be seen walking for hours.		
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.2	8 <sup>th</sup>	He could be both funny and sad.		
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.2	9 <sup>th</sup>	She could be very helpful.		
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.2	10 <sup>th</sup>	She could be unwell after a drink.		

usage:

is used to indicate that something sometimes happened or that something sometimes was true in ● the past

### 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.3

The 11<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'Please, could you make less noise?', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.3 [in 3<sup>rd</sup> the interrogative mood] [in + the positive] indicates a polite request. The 12<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'Please, could you close the window?', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.3 [in 3<sup>rd</sup> the interrogative mood] [in + the positive] indicates a polite request. The 13<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'You could stay with us for a few days.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.3 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates a suggestion. The 14<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'We could have some tea.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.3 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates a suggestion. The 15<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'I could not have just refused.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.3 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in - the negative] indicates that the speaker did not have the right to refuse something or to refuse to do something.

tag:	examples:			emphasis:
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.3	11 <sup>th</sup>	Please, could you make less noise?	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">           ⓅⓇ polite request,            Ⓢ suggestion,            or Ⓡ the right         </div>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.3	12 <sup>th</sup>	Please, could you close the window?		
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.3	13 <sup>th</sup>	You could stay with us for a few days.		
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.3	14 <sup>th</sup>	We could have some tea.		
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.3	15 <sup>th</sup>	I could not have just refused.		

usage:

is used to indicate a polite request, a suggestion, or the right to do something

### 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.4

The 16<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'You could have helped me.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.4 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates that the subject had the possibility or the opportunity to perform the action. The 17<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'You could have done it by yourself.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.4 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates that the subject had the possibility or the opportunity to perform the action. The 18<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'You could call your mother.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.4 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates that the subject has the possibility or the opportunity to perform the action. The 19<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'She could have left when everyone did.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.4 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates that the subject had the possibility or the opportunity to perform the action. The 20<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'I could have bought it if I wanted to.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.4 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates that the subject had the possibility or the opportunity to perform the action.

tag:	examples:			emphasis:
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.4	16 <sup>th</sup>	You could have helped me.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">           Ⓟ possibility            or Ⓞ opportunity         </div>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.4	17 <sup>th</sup>	You could have done it by yourself.		
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.4	18 <sup>th</sup>	You could call your mother.		
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.4	19 <sup>th</sup>	She could have left when everyone did.		
2 <sup>nd</sup> M2.4	20 <sup>th</sup>	I could have bought it if I wanted to.		

usage:

is used to indicate a possibility or an opportunity to do something

### 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.5

The 21<sup>st</sup> example, i.e. 'How could you say it?', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.5 [in 3<sup>rd</sup> the interrogative mood] [in + the positive] indicates surprise or anger. The 22<sup>nd</sup> example, i.e. 'I could not believe it!', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.5 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in - the negative] indicates surprise or shock. The 23<sup>rd</sup> example, i.e. 'Could he be right?', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.5 [in 3<sup>rd</sup> the interrogative mood] [in + the positive] indicates doubt. The 24<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'It could have been him again!', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.5 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates anger or annoyance. The 25<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'You could have told me!', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.5 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates anger or annoyance.

tag:		examples:		emphasis:
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.5	21 <sup>st</sup>	How could you say it?	Ⓢ surprise, Ⓢ shock, Ⓓ doubt, Ⓐ anger, or Ⓐ annoyance
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.5	22 <sup>nd</sup>	I could not believe it!	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.5	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Could he be right?	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.5	24 <sup>th</sup>	It could have been him again!	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.5	25 <sup>th</sup>	You could have told me!	
usage:				
is used to indicate surprise, shock, doubt, anger, or annoyance				

2<sup>nd</sup> M2.6

The 26<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'I could eat something.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.6 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates a desire. The 27<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'I could drink some coffee.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.6 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates a desire. The 28<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'I could have a holiday.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.6 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates a desire. The 29<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'Could you try it?', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.6 [in 3<sup>rd</sup> the interrogative mood] [in + the positive] asks if the addressee has a desire or the addressees have a desire. The 30<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'Could you play with me?', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.6 [in 3<sup>rd</sup> the interrogative mood] [in + the positive] asks if the addressee has a desire or the addressees have a desire.

tag:		examples:		emphasis:
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.6	26 <sup>th</sup>	I could eat something.	Ⓓ desire
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.6	27 <sup>th</sup>	I could drink some coffee.	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.6	28 <sup>th</sup>	I could have a holiday.	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.6	29 <sup>th</sup>	Could you try it?	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.6	30 <sup>th</sup>	Could you play with me?	
usage:				
is used to indicate a desire to do something				

2<sup>nd</sup> M2.7

The 31<sup>st</sup> example, i.e. 'It could have been dangerous.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.7 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates the past possibility. The 32<sup>nd</sup> example, i.e. 'She could have been killed by somebody who knew her.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.7 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates the past possibility. The 33<sup>rd</sup> example, i.e. 'It could be true.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.7 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates the present possibility. The 34<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'They could give it to you if you ask them.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.7 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates the future possibility. The 35<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'Your mother could call you tonight.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.7 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates the future possibility.

tag:		examples:		emphasis:
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.7	31 <sup>st</sup>	It could have been dangerous.	Ⓟ past, Ⓟ present, or Ⓟ future Ⓟ possibility
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.7	32 <sup>nd</sup>	She could have been killed by somebody who knew her.	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.7	33 <sup>rd</sup>	It could be true.	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.7	34 <sup>th</sup>	They could give it to you if you ask them.	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.7	35 <sup>th</sup>	Your mother could call you tonight.	
usage:				
is used to indicate the past, present, or future possibility				

2<sup>nd</sup> M2.8

The 36<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'I could kill him for saying that.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.8 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates the unlikely situation. The 37<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'I could have eaten all those cakes.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.8 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates the unlikely situation. The 38<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'I could have been an astronaut.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.8 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates the unlikely situation. The 39<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'They could have been happier.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.8 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates the unlikely situation. The 40<sup>th</sup> example, i.e. 'I could have been rich and famous.', 2<sup>nd</sup> M2.8 [in 1<sup>st</sup> the indicative mood] [in + the positive] indicates the unlikely situation.

tag:		examples:		emphasis:
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.8	36 <sup>th</sup>	I could kill him for saying that.	Ⓢ unlikely situation
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.8	37 <sup>th</sup>	I could have eaten all those cakes.	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.8	38 <sup>th</sup>	I could have been an astronaut.	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.8	39 <sup>th</sup>	They could have been happier.	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	M2.8	40 <sup>th</sup>	I could have been rich and famous.	
usage:				
is used to imagine a situation that was unlikely to happen or is unlikely to happen, and, often, the situation's possible consequences				