

Modal Auxiliaries: Could

Modal auxiliaries modify the mood of a verb. The verb *could*:

A. Gives a phrase a more conditional tone than can

Could you stay here?

B. Can be the past tense of can

I could have gotten lost.

C. Can suggest that something is a possibility.

We could climb that tree.



The negative of can is could not or the contraction couldn't.

DIRECTIONS: Read each sentence. Write the letter of the function could is performing in each sentence.

_____ 1. You could win the scholarship.

_____ 2. My neighbor could cut his grass.

_____ 3. Could you really get an A?

_____ 4. Could you lend me ten dollars?

_____ 5. Nathan could cook when he was six..

_____ 6. We could have fallen if we hadn't slowed down.

_____ 7. I couldn't listen to him anymore.