



TALKING ABOUT PERMISSION & PROHIBITION

Do you know how to use modal verbs to talk about **Permission** and **Prohibition**?

Permission

Can - We often use **can** to ask for and give permission.

***Can I** have a bottle of water, please?*

*You **can** use my Wi-Fi if you like.*

***Can you** make a suggestion?*



Could - **Could** is more formal and polite than **can**. We use **could** to ask for permission, but not give permission.

***Could I** open the window?*

*Excuse me, **could I** sit here, please?*

***Could I** speak to the manager, please?*

May - **May** is similar to **could** but it is even more polite.

***May I** see your passport, please?*

***May I** make an appointment for Monday, please?*

*You **may** come after lunch if you wish.*



Talk about
Permission
Can, Could,
May

Talk about
Prohibition
Can't, Must
not & Mustn't

Prohibition

We use **can't** and **mustn't** to show that something is not allowed (**prohibited**).

Can't - **Can't** is used to show that something is prohibited.

*He **can't** get a driver's license. He is color blind.*

*You **can't** go into that restaurant in jeans.*

*I'm sorry, but you **can't** go in here, it's for staff only.*

Must not & mustn't is also used for permission, but is more formal. It is often used on signs and in announcements.

*Baggage **must not** be left unattended.*

*You **mustn't** use your phone in class.*

*You **mustn't** leave litter lying around.*

TALKING ABOUT PERMISSION

Use **can**, **could**, and **may** to talk about permission.

Use the topic **'Dinner Tonight'** and see if you can express yourself correctly with the above three modal verbs.

Example: *Could I have a glass of wine, please?*

Can _____
Could _____
May _____

New Topic: In the classroom.

Example: *May I suggest that you stop playing on your phone?*

Can _____
Could _____
May _____

New Topic: Mother and child.

Can _____
Could _____
May _____

Use **can't**, **must not**, or **mustn't** to talk about Prohibition.

Topic **'Dinner Tonight'**. Can express yourself correctly with the above three modal verbs.

Example: *You **can't** sit here, this table has been reserved.*
*You **must not** add too much salt, it's unhealthy.*

Can't _____
Must not _____
Mustn't _____

New Topic: In the classroom.

Example: *You **can't** sit on your desk.*
*You **must not** write on the desk.*

Can't _____
Must not _____
Mustn't _____

New Topic: Mother and child.

Can't _____
Must not _____
Mustn't _____