

3 | Language reference

GRAMMAR

Modals of obligation, permission & prohibition (present & past time)

Permission

We use *can* + infinitive and *is/are allowed to* + infinitive to talk about permission in the present.

You can drive in the UK when you are seventeen.

The children are allowed to watch TV until ten o'clock.

We use *could* + infinitive and *was/were allowed to* + infinitive to talk about permission in the past.

Many years ago people could smoke anywhere.

She was allowed to stay out until twelve o'clock.

Obligation

We use *must* + infinitive and *has/have to* to talk about obligation in the present.

You must arrive 30 minutes before your flight.

We have to leave soon.

We use *had to* + infinitive to talk about obligation in the past.

He had to pay a lot of tax last year.

No obligation

We use *don't/doesn't have to* + infinitive and *don't/doesn't need to* + infinitive to talk about something that is not necessary (but it is allowed).

You don't have to come if you don't want to.

I don't need to wear a tie to work.

We use *didn't have to* + infinitive and *didn't need to* + infinitive to talk about an absence of obligation in the past.

She knew the restaurant manager so she didn't have to pay for her meal.

They didn't need to get up early because it was a holiday.

Prohibition

We use *can't* + infinitive, *mustn't* + infinitive and *isn't/aren't allowed to* + infinitive to talk about something that is not allowed.

You can't enter the US without a passport.

You mustn't open your papers before the exam begins.

The students aren't allowed to take mobile phones to school.

We use *couldn't* + infinitive and *wasn't/weren't allowed to* + infinitive to talk about prohibition in the past.

British schoolchildren couldn't have long hair in the 1950s.

The monks were not allowed to speak.

Make, let & allow

Permission

We can use *let* + object + infinitive (without *to*) and *allow* + object + *to* + infinitive to talk about permission.

She lets her children do anything they want.

My father let me use his car.

The teacher allowed the students to ask questions.

Obligation

We can use *make/made* + object + infinitive (without *to*) to talk about obligation.

The company makes the staff work very hard.

She made me do it again.

Prohibition

We can use *doesn't/didn't let* + object + infinitive (without *to*) and *doesn't/didn't allow* + object + *to* + infinitive to talk about prohibition.

They don't let me leave until five o'clock.

He didn't let me speak.

They don't allow animals to come into the house.

FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

Requests: asking for permission

Requests

Can I (possibly) + infinitive ... ?

Could I (possibly) + infinitive ... ?

Do you think I could + infinitive ... ?

Is it all right/OK if I + present tense ... ?

I wonder if I could + infinitive ... ?

Responses

Yes, sure/of course/certainly/no problem/go ahead.

I'm sorry, but ...

I'm afraid that ...

If we want to refuse permission, we usually give an explanation.

Requests: asking someone to do something

Requests

Can you (possibly) + infinitive ... ?
 Could you (possibly) + infinitive ... ?
 Do you think you could + infinitive ... ?

Responses

Yes, sure/of course/certainly/no problem.

If we want to refuse the request, we usually give an explanation.

WORD LIST

Accommodation

apartment	/ə'pɑ:tmənt ,blɒk/
block <i>n C</i>	
cabin <i>n C **</i>	/kæbɪn/
campsite <i>n C</i>	/kæmpsaɪt/
cave <i>n C **</i>	/keɪv/
communal <i>adj *</i>	/kə'mju:nəl/
community <i>n C ***</i>	/kə'mju:nəti/
detached <i>adj *</i>	/dɪ'tætʃt/
dormitory <i>n C</i>	/dɔ:mɪtri/
facilities <i>n pl ***</i>	/fə'sɪlətɪz/
holiday home <i>n C</i>	/hɒlɪdeɪ ,həʊm/
houseboat <i>n C</i>	/haʊsbəʊt/
lighthouse <i>n C</i>	/laɪthaʊs/
local authority <i>n C</i>	/ləʊkl ɔ:'θɒrəti/
lock <i>v ***</i>	/lɒk/
mobile	/məʊbaɪl 'həʊm/
home <i>n C **</i>	
monthly charge <i>n C</i>	/mʌnθlɪ 'tʃɑ:dʒ/
ownership <i>n U **</i>	/əʊnəʃɪp/
resident <i>n C ***</i>	/rezɪd(ə)nt/
semi-detached <i>adj</i>	/semɪdɪ'tætʃt/
suburb <i>n C *</i>	/sʌbɜ:b/
tent <i>n C **</i>	/tent/
terraced <i>adj</i>	/terəst/
tree house <i>n C</i>	/tri:haʊs/
wallpaper <i>n U *</i>	/wɔ:lpeɪpə/
windmill <i>n C</i>	/wɪndmɪl/

Conversation fillers

Ah!	/ɑ:/
I see.	/aɪ 'si:/
Mm.	/m/
Oh!	/əʊ/
Really!	/ri:əli/
Right.	/raɪt/
Uh-huh.	/ʌ 'hʌ/
Yes.	/jes/

Sleep

fall asleep	/fɔ:l ə'sli:p/
feel sleepy	/fi:l 'sli:pɪ/
get to sleep	/get tə 'sli:p/
go to sleep	/gəʊ tə 'sli:p/
have a nap	/hæv ə 'næp/
heavy sleeper <i>n c</i>	/hevi 'sli:pə/
light sleeper <i>n c</i>	/laɪt 'sli:pə/
make the bed	/meɪk ðə 'bed/
set the alarm clock	/set ði: ə'lɑ:m ,klɒk/
wake up <i>v *</i>	/weɪk 'ʌp/

Other words & phrases

airy <i>adj</i>	/eəri/
arsenic <i>n U</i>	/ɑ:snɪk/
bench <i>n C **</i>	/bentʃ/
best-seller <i>n C</i>	/best'selə/
big deal <i>n C</i>	/bɪg 'di:l/
calamari <i>n pl</i>	/kælə'mɑ:ri/
candle <i>n C **</i>	/kændl/
catch up with <i>v</i>	/kætʃ 'ʌp wɪð/
chef <i>n C</i>	/ʃef/
claim <i>n C/v ***</i>	/kleɪm/
conduct <i>v **</i>	/kən'dʌkt/
convenient <i>adj **</i>	/kən'vi:nɪənt/
conviction <i>n C **</i>	/kən'vɪkʃn/
crash <i>v *</i>	/kræʃ/
day-to-day <i>adj</i>	/deɪtə'deɪ/
decorate <i>v *</i>	/dekə'reɪt/
deer <i>n C</i>	/diə/
deserved <i>adj</i>	/dɪ'zɜ:vð/
divide <i>v ***</i>	/dɪ'vaɪd/
dramatic <i>adj *</i>	/drə'mætɪk/
drawback <i>n C</i>	/drɔ:bæk/

dreadful <i>adj</i>	/dredfl/
dull <i>adj *</i>	/dʌl/
enormous <i>adj **</i>	/ɪ'nɔ:məs/
for good <i>adv</i>	/fə 'gʊd/
found <i>v</i>	/faʊnd/
fully clothed <i>adj</i>	/fʊli 'kləʊðd/
gossip <i>n U</i>	/gɒsɪp/
half-way <i>adj/adv</i>	/hɑ:fweɪ/
a helping hand	/ə ,helpɪŋ 'hænd/
homesick <i>adj</i>	/həʊmsɪk/
household name <i>n C</i>	/haʊshəʊld 'neɪm/
incense <i>n U</i>	/ɪnsens/
inn <i>n C</i>	/ɪn/
keep (sb) company <i>v</i>	/ki:p 'kʌmp(ə)nɪ/
living	/lɪvɪŋ kən'dɪʃənz/
conditions <i>n pl</i>	
mayonnaise <i>n U</i>	/meɪə'neɪz/
monk <i>n C</i>	/mʌŋk/
noisy <i>adj *</i>	/nɔɪzi/
obviously <i>adv ***</i>	/əʊbvɪəsli/
poisonous <i>adj</i>	/pɔɪznəs/
poverty <i>n U</i>	/pɒvəti/
refugee <i>adj</i>	/refju:dʒi:/
reputation <i>n C/U **</i>	/repjʊ'teɪʃn/
sanitary <i>adj</i>	/sænət(ə)ri/
scenery <i>n U</i>	/si:nəri/
sink <i>n C</i>	/sɪŋk/
slice <i>n C *</i>	/slaɪs/
sparkling <i>adj</i>	/spɑ:klɪŋ/
spectacular <i>adj</i>	/spektækjʊlə/
substance <i>n C ***</i>	/sʌbstəns/
tap water <i>n U</i>	/tæp ,wɔ:tə/
time flies	/taɪm 'flaɪz/
undeserved <i>adj</i>	/ʌndɪ'zɜ:vð/
uniform <i>n C **</i>	/ju:nɪ'fɔ:m/
useless <i>adj</i>	/ju:sləs/
vacation <i>n C</i>	/və'keɪʃn/
valet <i>n C</i>	/væleɪ/
waiting list <i>n C</i>	/weɪtɪŋ ,lɪst/
wooden <i>adj</i>	/wʊdn/
workhouse <i>n C</i>	/wɜ:khaʊs/