

Intermediate 2
Unit 5: Grammar, Part A
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Could have + Past Participle

➤ **An Ability in the Past:**

Mary **could have bought** the car. = Mary was able to buy it, but she didn't.

The police officer **could have killed** the bank robber. = He was able to kill him, but he didn't.

➤ **Probability in the Past:**

It **could have rained** last night. = Rain was possible last night, but it didn't rain.

The prices **could have risen**. = An increase in the prices was possible, but they didn't rise.

➤ **Permission in the Past:**

Tony **could have borrowed** his father's car. = He had the permission to use his father's car, but he didn't.

Could have vs. Could

Important for the Final Exam

I **could buy** it. = I bought it. = می توانستم بخرم. = I managed to buy it.

I **could have bought** it. = I didn't buy it, but I had the ability to buy it. = می توانستم بخرم. =

She **could bake** bread. = She baked bread. = او توانست نان بپزد.

She **could have baked** bread. = She was able to bake bread, but she didn't. = او می توانست نان بپزد.

Point:

When we use "could + Simple Form of the Verb", it means we were able to do something in the past and we did it.

Example:

Tom **could ride** a bicycle when he was five years old. = He was able to ride a bicycle at the age of five and he did it.

Point:

When we use "could have + Past Participle", it means we were able to do something in the past, but we didn't do it.

Example:

Mary **could have ridden** a bicycle if her parents had bought her one. = Her parents didn't buy her a bicycle, so she didn't ride a bicycle even though she had the ability.

Source:

[Intermediate 2 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)