

Pre-Intermediate 2
Unit 4, Grammar: Part A
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Could

➤ **The Past Form of Can ⇒ Ability in the Past**

Mozart could play the piano when he was five years old.

I could ride a bicycle when I was four years old.

Tom could draw a portrait of his neighbor's face yesterday.

The police officers could arrest the thief last night.

➤ **Polite Requests**

Could you open the window?

Could you please open the window?

Could you open the window please?

Could I have a cup of coffee?

Could I please have a cup of coffee?

Could I have a cup of coffee please?

Point:

In requests, “could” has the same meaning as “can”, but it is much politer and more formal.

Probability

probability = the level of possibility of something happening or being true

*It **will** rain tonight.* → I'm **100% sure** that the weather is going to be rainy tonight.

*It **may** rain tonight.* → I'm **50% sure** that the weather is going to be rainy tonight.

*It **might** rain tonight.* → I'm **30% sure** that the weather is going to be rainy tonight.

sure = certain

The Difference between “must” and “have to”:

"Must" and "have to" both express necessity, but there are some slight differences:

Must:

Implies a strong obligation, often internal or from the speaker.

Example: "You must finish your homework."

Have to:

Indicates necessity, often from an external source or circumstance.

Example: "I have to go to work."

So, "must" is more personal, while "have to" often points to outside obligations.

*I **must** study hard.* → **Internal Obligation** ⇔ You are a good student. You enjoy studying hard.

obligation = what is necessary for you to do

*I **have to** study hard.* → **External Obligation** ⇔ You don't like school. Your parents force you to study hard.

***** Important for the Final Exam**

The Difference between “mustn’t” and “not have to”:

The difference lies in the necessity and prohibition:

Mustn't:

Implies prohibition; something you are not allowed to do.

Example: "You mustn't touch the stove." (It's forbidden.)

Not have to:

Indicates no necessity; something you are not required to do.

Example: "You don't have to attend the meeting." (It's optional.)

So, "mustn't" stops you from doing something, while "not have to" gives you the choice.

You **mustn't** cook. → **Negative Obligation** ⇒ We don't want you to cook. If you cook, we will get angry with you.

You **don't have to** cook. → **Lack of Obligation** ⇒ It is not necessary for you to cook. There is no obligation. You have two options: if you would like, you can cook; if you wouldn't like, don't cook.

Lack of obligation = There is no obligation. = There isn't any obligation.

Source:

<https://www.anglophone.ir/pre2/>