

Modals

Can/Could

Be able to

May/Might

Ability

Can

Could

Be able to

I **can** run very fast

I **could** run faster when I wasn't so tired

I **was able to** outrun my P.E. teacher once

I **will be able to** do it again if I start practicing

Probability

Can

Could

May

Might

It can happen

It **couldn't happen even if we all wanted**

He **may be at home now**

He **might be at home, but I'm not sure**

Permission

Can

Could

May

Might (SUPER POLITE)

Can you help me with this?

Could I borrow your book?

May I borrow your book?

I wonder if I might borrow your book

Can you ?

May I..... ?

Requests and offers

- Can I carry your bag? (**Not May!**)
 - How can I help you?
- We could go home if you're tired