Unit 13 · Ability and Reasons

HARDER PRACTICE QUESTIONS · ANSWER KEY

Full marks 25

Give the marks for the points in the marking scheme; an answer in other words that says the same is right.

1 Three jobs for could

ANSWER HA · 6

Tests: *could* is the past of *can* only for ability with a past time; it also makes a polite request and a guess about now or later; replies fit the job (*Yes, I could* only to past ability); the time decides *can* or *could*.

a. 1. **ability in the past** (*when I was six*) · 2. a **polite request** (*for me, please*: the speaker wants it done now) · 3. a **guess** (*tonight*: the future, *it could* = maybe it will) · 4. **ability in the past** (*when you started school*) · 5. a **guess** (*the phone is ringing* now: maybe it is Dad)

b. 2: ***Sure!*** (or *Of course*, *Yes, of course*, *Yes, I can*; or a kind no, *Sorry, my hands are full*). 4: ***Yes, I could.*** or ***No, I couldn't.*** (A short answer to a request is never *Yes, I could*: that would only say I was able, not that I will do it.)

c. 1 about now: ***Now I can swim across the river.*** 5 as a fact: ***It is Dad.*** (or *It's Dad: I can see his name on the screen.*)

d. ***When I was five, I couldn't read, but now I can read anything.*** *When I was five* is past, so ***couldn't***; *now* is the present, so ***can***. (The tempting mistake swaps them because *could* "sounds politer".)

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. 1 and 4 past ability, with the past time.
- ✓ a. 2 a request; 3 and 5 guesses.
- ✓ b. A request answered *Sure / Of course* (or a kind no).
- ✓ b. 4 answered *Yes, I could / No, I couldn't*.
- ✓ c. *I can swim* and *It is Dad*.
- ✓ d. *couldn't* for the past, *can* for now.

2 No time word

ANSWER HA · 3

Tests: *could* alone doesn't say past; the time, or the situation, decides which job it does; a request asks someone else to act.

a. Past ability: ***When I was ten, I could swim across the river.*** (any past time: *when we lived in Chitwan*, *before I hurt my leg*). Possible now: ***The bridge is broken, but the water is low today. I could swim across the river.*** (a situation now or later, where swimming is one thing that might happen). (The tempting answer reads every *could* as the past and finds no second meaning.)

b. A request asks **someone else** to do something, so it is a question to the listener: ***Could you*** *swim across the river? I could swim* tells what the **speaker** was able to do, or might do; it asks nobody for anything.

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. A sentence that gives a past time.
- ✓ a. A sentence with a situation now or later.
- ✓ b. A request asks someone else (*Could you…?*); *I could* asks nobody.

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3 A reason that fits

ANSWER HA · 6

Tests: a reason must fit what it explains (a reason that stops someone for *can't*, one that helps for *can*); the reason goes after *because* and the result before it, never swapped; *since* or *so*, not both; *because of* + a noun, even when that noun has a *which* clause after it.

a. **Sentence 5** is right. *The rain which fell all day* is one noun, *the rain*, with a *which* clause telling which rain; so *because of* fits. Someone might think it wrong because a verb (*fell*) comes after *because of*, but that verb belongs to the *which* clause, not to a sentence of its own.

b. Models:

1. The reason **helps** him; it can't explain *can't*. ***Dipesh can help you with your homework because he is very good at math.*** (or *Dipesh can't help you because he is busy.*)
2. *A landslide fell on it* is a whole sentence, so ***because*: *The road was closed because a landslide fell on it.*** (or *because of a landslide*)
3. Cause and result are **swapped**: the river rises because of the rain. ***The river rose because it rained all night.***
4. Two joiners for one link: ***Since it was a holiday, the school was closed.*** (or *It was a holiday, so the school was closed.*)

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. Sentence 5.
- ✓ a. *Fell* is in the *which* clause; *the rain* is a noun.
- ✓ b. 1: the reason must stop him (or *can*).
- ✓ b. 2: *because* + a sentence (or *because of* + a noun).
- ✓ b. 3: cause and result swapped back.
- ✓ b. 4: *since* or *so*, not both.

4 Telling a story in the present

ANSWER HA · 6

Tests: a story is described in the present simple, as if it happens each time it is read; what happened **before** the story's time stays past; the verb agrees with its subject, not the nearest noun.

a. 1. **tells** · 2. **planted** · 3. **come** · 4. **fills** · 5. **breaks** · 6. **are** · 7. **smiles** · 8. **shows** · 9. **kept** (or *had kept*, or *has kept*: kept until now) · 10. **plant**

b. ***planted*** and ***kept***. They tell what happened **before** the story's time (*fifty years ago*, *last summer*), so they stay past, as the old people's *had played* in the description of the poem. Everything else happens **in** the story, so it is told in the present.

c. The subject is ***the noise***, one thing; *of their games* only says which noise. So *the noise … fills*. (Cover the words in between: *the noise fills the house*.)

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. 1, 3–6 (*tells, come, fills, breaks, are*).
- ✓ a. 7, 8, 10 (*smiles, shows, plant*).
- ✓ a. 2 and 9 past (*planted, kept*).
- ✓ b. They happened before the story's time (fifty years ago, last summer).
- ✓ c. The subject is *the noise*.
- ✓ c. One thing, so *-s*.

5 What was going on?

ANSWER

Tests: the past continuous for what was already going on, the past simple for what happened at one moment, chosen by meaning from notes.

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a. Models: A · 4

1. ***Sana and her brother were walking home under the old peepal tree when a strong wind started.***
2. ***They were running to the bus shelter when a big branch cracked.***
3. ***They were standing safely in the shelter when the branch crashed onto the path.***

(*When a strong wind started, they were walking…* is right too.)

b. The crash happened **suddenly, at one moment**, so it takes the past simple. *Was crashing* would make it something going on for a while, the background, while the important moment is still to come.

MARKING SCHEME

✓ a. Sentence 1, *were walking* and *started*.
✓ a. Sentence 2, *were running* and *cracked*.
✓ a. Sentence 3, *were standing* and *crashed*.
✓ b. The crash happened at one moment, so the past simple.

Marks by level	Knowledge	Understanding	Application	Higher ability	**Total**
Marks	0	0	4	21	**25**

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