



Modal Verbs of Permission – Practice Worksheet (B2–C1)

This worksheet will help you practise using modal verbs of permission (can, may, could, and was/were allowed to). The exercises are suitable for Cambridge B2 First and C1 Advanced learners.

Exercise 1: Choose the Correct Option

Choose the correct answer.

1. _____ I leave a bit earlier today?
a) Can b) May c) Could
2. Students _____ use dictionaries during the exam.
a) can't b) may not c) couldn't
3. When I was a child, I _____ stay up late on Saturdays.
a) may b) could c) can
4. You _____ enter the building without an ID badge.
a) can't b) couldn't c) aren't allowed
5. _____ I ask you a quick question, Professor?
a) Can b) Could c) Was

Exercise 2: Gap Fill

Complete the sentences using can, may, could, or was/were allowed to.

1. Passengers _____ not use electronic devices during take-off.
2. _____ I borrow your charger for a moment?
3. At school, we _____ wear uniforms every day.
4. Visitors _____ enter the museum for free on Sundays.
5. When she worked there, she _____ take extra breaks if needed.

Exercise 3: Rewrite the Sentences

Rewrite the sentences using the word in brackets.

1. It is forbidden to park here. (may)
→ _____
2. Is it okay if I open the window? (could)
→ _____
3. Children had permission to use the playground. (allowed)
→ _____
4. You are not permitted to bring food into the lab. (can't)
→ _____

Exercise 4: Formal or Informal?

Decide whether the situation is FORMAL or INFORMAL and choose the best modal.

1. Speaking to a friend at home: _____
2. Writing an official notice: _____
3. Asking a teacher a question: _____
4. Workplace rules document: _____

Exercise 5: Error Correction

Each sentence contains a mistake. Correct it.

1. May I borrow your pen yesterday?

→ _____

2. We may stay out late when we were teenagers.

→ _____

3. You could not enter the room without permission. (formal notice)

→ _____

Exercise 6: Exam-Style Sentence Completion

Complete each sentence with ONE suitable word.

1. Visitors _____ not touch the exhibits.

2. _____ I speak to you after the lesson?

3. They were _____ to leave early due to the weather.

4. At that time, employees _____ work from home once a week.

Answer Key

Exercise 1:

1. c 2. b 3. b 4. a 5. b

Exercise 2 (sample answers):

1. may 2. Could 3. had to / were allowed to 4. may 5. was allowed to

Exercise 3 (sample answers):

1. You may not park here.
2. Could I open the window?
3. Children were allowed to use the playground.
4. You can't bring food into the lab.

Exercise 5 (sample corrections):

1. Could I borrow your pen yesterday?
2. We were allowed to stay out late when we were teenagers.
3. You may not enter the room without permission.

Exercise 6:

1. may 2. Could 3. allowed 4. could