Vidya Bhawan Balika Vidyapeeth,Lakhisarai

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Subject English. By R.N. Singh

Use of. Can, Could

(i) Can and could are used to express possibility, that is, some action or event is possible; as,

Can her statement be true?
We could succeed if we worked together.

(ii) Can and could are used to <u>express</u> ability or power; as, I can swim.

She could dance well at the age of ten.

(iii) permission; as,

Can and could are used to express Can I go to see a movie? You can leave the office now.

(iv) Could sometimes does not indicate past time. It is also used to express a polite request; as, Could I have your book? Could I have a word with you