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ENGLISH GRAMMAR LEVEL 4 - MODALS (CAN, COULD, MAY, MIGHT)

Choose the correct modal verb to complete each sentence

(1) Tommy is an excellent swimmer; he _____ swim across the entire lake easily.

A might

C can

B may

D could

My answer is _____

(2) Excuse me, Mr. Lee, _____ I go to the restroom to wash my hands?

A may

C might

B can't

D could not

My answer is _____

(3) When David was only five years old, he _____ already read long chapter books.

A can

C may

B could

D might

My answer is _____

(4) Look at those dark clouds in the sky; it _____ rain during our school recess later.

A can

C might

B could not

D can't

My answer is _____

(5) _____ you please pass me the English grammar worksheets from the front desk?

A May

C Might

B Could

D Can't

My answer is _____

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ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

Question	Answer	Explanation
(1)	C	can — Used to express general ability in the present tense.
(2)	A	may — The standard, most formal modal verb for requesting or giving permission in a classroom setting.
(3)	B	could — Indicates general ability in the past ("When David was only five years old").
(4)	C	might — Expresses a weak, tentative, or uncertain possibility based on circumstantial evidence (dark clouds).
(5)	B	Could — Used to form a polite, respectful request or question directed at someone.
(6)	B	may — Expresses a strong present or future possibility when something is likely but not guaranteed ("not completely sure").
(7)	C	couldn't — Expresses a lack of ability or failure to perform an action in a past time context.
(8)	A	cannot — Shows a strict rule, prohibition, or lack of permission in the present tense.
(9)	C	cannot — Used to indicate physical or situational inability in the present if conditions are not met.
(10)	C	could — Represents historical ability or objective possibility restricted to a past time period.