Could / Would Worksheet

Grade 6 Grammar & Vocabulary Modal verbs

NAME CLASS DATE

COULD

Ability / possibility

Could shows ability or possibility in the past or in an imagined situation.

> **Meaning:** Could is the past tense of can, and we also use it to talk about possibilities or abilities.

Examples

- I could swim when I was 5. *(past ability)*
- If I had time, I could help you. *(possibility)*

Student tip: Use could when you are talking about something that might happen, or something you were able to do.

WOULD

Decision / intention

Would shows a decision or intention in a situation that depends on something.

> **Meaning:** Would is the past tense of will, and we use it to talk about what someone wants to do, or would do if something else happens.

Examples

- I would travel if I had money. *(I want to, but I do not have money.)*
- She said she would call me. *(past decision / intention)*

Student tip: Use would when you are imagining something or talking about what you want to do if something is true.

COMPARE

WORD	USED FOR	EXAMPLE
Could	Ability / Possibility	I could speak French when I was young.
Would	Decision / Imaginary situations	I would buy that car if I had money.

If I had a car, I could drive to the beach. It is possible; I have the ability.
If I had a car, I would drive to the beach. I want to do it; I am making a decision.