

12. Excuse me, ___ I have the bill, please?
 a) did
 b) shall
 c) will
 d) could
13. ' ___ I see your passport, sir?' asked the immigration officer.
 a) May
 b) Must
 c) Will
 d) Shall
14. The library notice read: 'Readers ___ not remove reference books from the reading room.'
 a) do
 b) may
 c) should
 d) will
15. ___ I open the window? It's rather stuffy in here.
 a) Did
 b) Had
 c) Could
 d) Was
16. The notice says visitors ___ enter free on Sundays.
 a) will
 b) must
 c) shall
 d) may
17. ' ___ I speak to the manager, please?' the customer asked.
 a) Could
 b) Did
 c) Had
 d) Was
18. A: ___ I sit here? B: Yes, of course you ____.
 a) Must, must
 b) May, may
 c) Shall, shall
 d) Will, will
19. I was wondering if I ___ leave a little early today.
 a) did
 b) had
 c) could
 d) was
20. A: May I park here? B: No, I'm afraid you ____.
 a) mustn't
 b) don't
 c) can
 d) may not



Answers

1. a) Could
2. b) may
3. c) May
4. d) could
5. a) may
6. b) Could
7. c) may
8. d) May
9. a) May
10. b) may
11. c) Could
12. d) could
13. a) May
14. b) may
15. c) Could
16. d) may
17. a) Could
18. b) May, may
19. c) could
20. d) may not



Explanations

1. “Could” (a)

'Could I...?' is a polite way to ask for permission. It is more formal and polite than 'Can I...?'.

2. “may” (b)

'You may...!' is used by someone in authority to formally give permission. Teachers, officials, and managers often use 'may'.

3. “May” (c)

'May I...?' is the most formal and polite way to ask for permission. It is suitable for formal situations.

4. “could” (d)

'I wonder if I could...!' is a very polite way to ask for permission. The past tense 'could' makes the request more tentative and respectful.

5. “may” (a)

'You may not...!' is a formal way to refuse permission or state a prohibition. It is common in libraries and official notices.

6. “Could” (b)

'Could I possibly...?' adds extra politeness. The word 'possibly' makes the request even more tentative and polite.

7. “may” (c)

'May not' is used in formal rules and announcements, especially on planes and in public places.

8. “May” (d)

'May I...?' is appropriate when visiting someone's home or in any situation where formal politeness is expected.

9. “May” (a)

'May I ask...?' is a standard polite expression, commonly used on the telephone and in professional settings.

10. “may” (b)

'May' is used in formal notices and rules to state what is permitted. This is a hotel or club rule.

11. “Could” (c)

'Could I trouble you for...?' is a very polite expression for asking someone to pass something or do a small favour.

12. “could” (d)

'Could I have...?' is a polite way to ask for something in a restaurant or shop. It is more polite than 'Can I have...?'.

13. “May” (a)

'May I...?' is used by officials and people in authority for formal, polite requests.

14. “may” (b)

'May not' is the standard formal phrasing used in official notices and written rules to state what is not permitted.

15. “Could” (c)

'Could I...?' is a polite way to ask for permission to do something that might affect others in the room.

16. “may” (d)

'May' in official notices means 'are permitted to'. It states what is formally allowed.

17. “Could” (a)

'Could I speak to...?' is a standard polite expression used in customer service, on the phone, or in shops.

18. “May, may” (b)

'May I...?' and 'Yes, you may' form a polite permission exchange. The response matches the modal verb in the question.

19. “could” (c)

'I was wondering if I could...' is one of the most polite ways to ask for permission. The past tenses make it very tentative.

20. “may not” (d)

When refusing a 'May I...?' request, the formal response uses 'may not'. 'I'm afraid you may not' is a polite refusal.