

Translation II. – KEY

1. *Can't I stay up till / until the end of this programme?*
2. *Could students choose what they wanted to study? (= Were they allowed to choose... asking about permission)*
3. *I knew we might have to wait at the frontier / border.* (in indirect speech, *might* is used after a past reporting verb)
4. *Peter came home alone last night. You shouldn't have let him (do that). / You shouldn't have allowed him to (do that). He might / could have got lost.* (we know that he didn't get lost, so we can use only **might** or **could** + **perfect infinitive** to say that something was possible in the past, but we know that it did not in fact happen)
5. *Perhaps we should / ought to have taken the other way/road. It may / might / could have been quicker / faster.* (here we don't know whether the other road is/was quicker or not – perhaps yes, perhaps no... to say that it is possible that sth happened in the past, but we don't know what the result is/was, we can use **may / might / could** + **perfect infinitive**)
6. *If you had left it there / Had you left it there, someone / somebody might / could have stolen it.*
7. *The man can't be driving the car himself. He can't drive.*
8. *He may / might not be driving the car himself.*
9. *Ann can't / couldn't have seen Tom yesterday. She was on business in Prague.*
10. *You / One can ski on the hills.*
11. *When I was young I could (= was able to) climb any tree in the forest.*
12. *Could you please send me an application form?*
13. *He said he had lost his passport and therefore / that is why he hadn't been able to / wasn't able to / couldn't leave for Spain.* (past inability, whether or not reference is made to an actual occasion, can be expressed by *couldn't* as well as by the past tense of *not be able to* or *be unable to*)
14. *I could have lent you the money. Why didn't you ask me?*
15. *He was able to send us a message. (He managed to send .../ He succeeded in sending us...)*
– for past ability which is realised in some actual achievement or success (a particular situation, nothing general), *could cannot* be used and has to be replaced by the past (or perfect) tense of *be able to*