

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Modal Tone Shift

**Directions:** Read each short dialogue. Then, rewrite it by switching **can** to **could** or **could** to **can**. After each rewrite, explain briefly how the tone shifts (for example: from direct to polite, from certain to uncertain).

### 1. Boss and Employee

Boss: Can you finish the report by 3 p.m.?

Employee: Yes, I can get it done.

Rewrite: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Teacher and Student

Teacher: Could you please hand in your project by Friday?

Student: I could try, but it might be Monday instead.

Rewrite: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Friends

Ella: Can you come to the game tonight?

Tara: I can if my homework's done early.

Rewrite: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Parent and Teen

Parent: Could you take out the trash before dinner, please?

Teen: Sure, I could do that now.

Rewrite: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Customer and Server

Customer: Can you bring the check, please?

Server: Of course, I can bring it right away.

Rewrite: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_