Could or couldn't

Grammar Tips

Could and **couldn't** are the past tense form of **can** and **can't**.

We use **could** to mean that we were able to do something in the past.
We use **couldn't** to mean that we weren't able to do something in the past.

- We **could** walk around the park yesterday morning as it was not raining.
- We **couldn't** jog at 6 p.m. yesterday as it began to pour.

A. Complete the following sentences with **could** or **couldn't**.

1. When I was young, I _____ swim as I was very afraid of water.
2. Zahirah _____ write the essay so she asked the teacher for help.
3. At 93, Joe's grandfather _____ drive a car as he was still very fit.
4. Michelle _____ join us for the party as she was away on holiday.
5. Zahir _____ play the piano when he was young because he was naturally talented at it.
6. Saiful _____ play chess well so he lost to Rashid.
7. Sarah _____ see very well so her seat was near the front.
8. The play was in modern language so they _____ easily follow it.

Was and were

Grammar Tips

We use the verb to be **was** and **were** to show the status or characteristics of something or someone.

Past Simple

I was happy.	You were happy.	He/She was happy.	We were all happy.	It was happy.

B. Complete the following sentences with **was** or **were**.

1. What _____ you doing yesterday at 5.00 p.m.?
2. I _____ asleep at that time.
3. The books _____ on the table when I left.
4. My father's car _____ in perfect condition last night.
5. The teacher _____ unhappy with my essay so I had to rewrite it.
6. Many books _____ on sale at the book fair.
7. Mr. and Mrs Mah _____ at home when the fire broke out.
8. _____ she your primary school teacher?

LIVEWORKSHEETS