

COULD / BE ABLE TO

1. Instructions: match the sentences with their functions.

• Could I check my email on your computer?	• Making a request
• My son could read when he was three years old.	• Past ability
• Could you help me set up my blog?	• Asking for permission
• If you buy a new laptop in the sales, you could save 30%.	• Past possibility
• As a child, I could play outside whenever I wanted.	• Present or future possibility

2. Instructions: complete the sentences with "could"/"was able to"/"were able to".

- 1 The fire destroyed the building, but fortunately everybody escape.
- 2 When Tom was little, he run faster than anybody.
- 3 Ferrer played very well, but in the end Nadal beat him.
- 4 The police officer chased the pickpocket, but unfortunately he escape.
- 5 Muhammad Ali was a great boxer - he beat anybody!

3. Instructions: which sentences in exercise 2 refer to a particular situation in the past, and which refer to a general ability?

1	specific situation	general ability
2	specific situation	general ability
3	specific situation	general ability
4	specific situation	general ability
5	specific situation	general ability