

# ABILITY – INTERMEDIATE LEVEL



Choose the correct word.

- 1 The exam was difficult but he *could* / *managed* to pass it.
- 2 I *could* / *managed* to play the piano when I was only five years old.
- 3 I *couldn't* / *could* go to the concert because I had a lot of homework.
- 4 She *was able to* / *couldn't* meet me because she wasn't busy.
- 5 We *didn't manage to* / *were able to* see the film because we were late.
- 6 He *could* / *managed* to speak French and Italian when he was thirteen.

Underline the correct words.

I *could* / *was able to* find my way because I had a good map.

Did you *manage to* / *Could you* book a table for us yesterday?

I'm afraid I *managed to* / *couldn't* understand what you just said.

I *couldn't* / *haven't been able to* swim since I got an ear infection.

Debbie *was able to* / *could* call me yesterday on her new mobile phone.

Complete the sentences using '*could, was or were able to*'. The sentences with (+) are positive, and those with (-) are negative. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ finish all the food without any problem! (+)
2. We \_\_\_\_\_ find any fish at the market today. (-)
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_ hold my breath under water. (+)
4. Ben \_\_\_\_\_ play tennis very well by the age of ten. (+)
5. Our neighbours \_\_\_\_\_ baby sit for us yesterday. (+)
6. Maria \_\_\_\_\_ go out yesterday because she didn't have any money. (-)
7. Jackie \_\_\_\_\_ drive us all to the beach yesterday. (+)
8. My uncle was very clever. He \_\_\_\_\_ speak four languages. (+)
9. My friend wasn't at home when I phoned, but I \_\_\_\_\_ contact him later. (+)
10. He had forgotten to bring his camera, so he \_\_\_\_\_ take any photos. (-)

Underline the correct options.

- 1 He loved the water and could / *couldn't* / *wasn't able to* swim when he was three.
- 2 I'd love to *can* / *could* / *be able to* swim like him.
- 3 She teaches French and she *can't* / *could* / *is able to* speak Chinese as well.
- 4 He's lost his driving licence. He *can't* / *couldn't* / *hasn't been able to* drive for the last two years.
- 5 We're a bit worried about Jake. He's six years old, but he still *can* / *can't* / *couldn't* read.
- 6 You used to *could* / *be able to* / *was able to* see the sea from here, before they built that block of flats.
- 7 He was heartbroken, but he *can* / *could* / *couldn't* understand why she'd left him.
- 8 I'm having laser treatment on my eyes, so I'll *can* / *could* / *be able to* read without glasses.

**Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets. Use negative forms where necessary.**

- 1 I'm really sorry we ..... to the party last night. (able/come)
- 2 She finally ..... a job as a waitress. (manage/find)
- 3 My father's going to give me some money so I ..... my first car. (able/buy)
- 4 We were only at home for a few days and unfortunately we ..... all the people we'd wanted to see. (not succeed/visit)
- 5 She did as well as she could, but on this particular occasion she just ..... the exam on time. (able/finish)
- 6 The cup fell off the table, but luckily he ..... it before it hit the floor. (manage/catch)

**Finish the sentences: Can, can't, could, couldn't, was / were able to, managed to**

1. A good runner \_\_\_\_\_ run the race in under four minutes.
2. Bill is so unfit he \_\_\_\_\_ run at all.
3. Our baby is only nine months and he \_\_\_\_\_ already stand up.
4. When I was younger, I \_\_\_\_\_ speak Italian much better than I \_\_\_\_\_ now.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ she speak German very well? – No, she \_\_\_\_\_ speak German at all.
6. He \_\_\_\_\_ draw or paint when he was a boy, but now he's a famous artist.
7. After weeks of training, I \_\_\_\_\_ swim much faster.
8. It took a long time but in the end Tony \_\_\_\_\_ save enough to buy his own hi-fi.
9. Did you buy any fresh fish in the market? – No, I \_\_\_\_\_ get any.
10. For days the rescuers looked for the lost climbers in the snow. On the fourth day they saw them and \_\_\_\_\_ reach them without too much trouble.