

Talking about ability

1. Choose the correct answers. If both answers are acceptable you should choose both of them.

- 1 **Could you / Were you able to** book tickets for the festival?
- 2 I answered the phone, but **couldn't / didn't manage to** hear anyone's voice on the other end.
- 3 I'll take my phone to the USA, but I **can't / won't be able to** make any calls from there.
- 4 We're having a party next weekend. **Can you / Will you be able to** come?
- 5 When the flood came, we **managed / were able to** climb onto the roof
- 6 Although she lives in Spain, she **can't / isn't able to** speak Spanish.
- 7 I **could smell / succeeded in smelling** gas as soon as I walked through the door.
- 8 The hill was very steep but we **could / managed to** cycle to the top.

2 Complete the dialogue with the correct forms of **can, could, be able to and manage to**. There may be more than one correct answer.

Leo 1..... finish your science project last night?

Mia No. My brother had some friends round. They were so noisy.

I 2..... concentrate!

Leo 3..... work on it tonight? I 4..... help you, if you like. I'm interested in climate change.

Mia Thanks. I 5..... find some statistics online, but I need to show them as diagrams.

Leo 6..... you draw? I'm not very good.

Mia Yes. I 7..... draw pretty well. Although

I 8..... probably do it better when I was ten. It was my favourite hobby. But I don't have time now ...

Leo Don't worry. After your exams, you 9..... spend more time on your hobbies.

Mia I 10..... wait!