ABILITY

CAN	(Present)
COULD	(General past Past & Conditional)
TO BE ABLE TO	(Rest of tenses)

I **can** speak English very well
Tom **can** carry these cases. He's very strong
Can I have a cup of tea, please?
When she was only four years old, she **could** swim very well
My friends **could** win the match if they practiced
Could you bring some water for me, please?
If you practice a lot, you **will be able to** speak English soon
I have telephoned him but I **haven't been able to** speak to him

1.- _____ you help me, please? I _____ (not) carry this bag.
2.- _____ your brother drive a car?
3.- I _____ (not) finished all my homework yet.
4.- The children _____ sleep in this room if they like it.
5.- He's very strong. He _____ lift anything.
6.- You're too young. You _____ (not) do that.
7.- I _____ ride a bicycle when I was only three.
8.- When he was young, he _____ run very fast.
9.- _____ you give me a hand with these exercises?
10.- In a few weeks, you _____ leave the hospital.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

11.- He's very handy. He _____ do anything around the house.
12.- The adder is the only British snake that _____ kill a man.
13.- I've forgotten my key. So I _____ (not) come in.
14.- By means of X-rays, scientists _____demonstrate that King Arthur's round table was actually made in 1330.
15.- He'd be hopeless as a managing director. He _____(not) make up his mind about anything.
16.- He said there were five coins under the bed, but I've been looking for more than ten minutes and I _____ find only three.
17.- When the new wing at the hotel is built, they _____take more guests.
18.- They have been researching into that illness for years, but they _____ (not) find out the cause of it.
19.- I'd like _____ spend my holidays in the Caribbean.
20.- We _____ (not) announce the results of the experiment today. but we expect ..... announce them next week.

Read this composition. Fill in the blanks with **can, could, can't or couldn't**

Before I came to this country I_____ do many things in English. For example, I _____follow a conversation if too many people were talking at the same time. I _____express what I wanted to say. I _____pronounce words properly. I remember one occasion at a party, I _____understand a word. I felt so uncomfortable. Finally, my aunt came to pick me up, and I was able to leave the party.

Today I _____understand much better. I_____ express my opinions and I _____have a conversation in English. I am taking classes at the adult center. My teacher is very good. She _____explain things well, and she always gives us the chance to talk a lot in class. I _____do a lot now, and I think in a few more months I _____do even more. I _____wait until the day I am completely bilingual.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Look at the above exercise. Write sentences about your ability to do something now and your inability to do something when you were young.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS