

# ABILITY

|                      |                                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>CAN</b>           | (Present)                         |
| <b>COULD</b>         | (General past Past & Conditional) |
| <b>TO BE ABLE TO</b> | (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.

- 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.

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

-

