## GRAMMAR

### Ability in the past: *could, was/were able to, managed to, succeeded in*

**6 Read the examples from the article on page 52 and then complete the rule with *managed, succeeded, could,* and *couldn't*.**

1 Many of the people there couldn't even switch on a computer without help.
2 After [...] a few basic IT lessons, they were able to use the computer confidently.
3 The outcomes of the project were amazing: 89-year-old Sheila [...] managed to create a YouTube cooking tutorial.
4 93-year-old Marilyn succeeded in making a rap video.

**RULE:** To talk about ability generally in the past we use [1] _____ /*couldn't*.
To talk about ability at specific moments in the past, we use *was/were able to* ([2] _____ to + infinitive, or [3] _____ *in* + gerund).
To talk about a lack of ability at specific moments in the past, we use [4] _____ /*wasn't (weren't) able to*.

**7 Choose the correct answers.**

1 Her mobile phone broke a week ago. She ___ to access any social networks since then.
A couldn't
B hasn't been able
C hasn't succeeded

2 He was so moved by the award he received that he ___ continue with his speech.
A wasn't able to B succeeded in C could

3 He played football again for the first time after his injury, but he only ___ play for 20 minutes.
A could
B managed to
C succeeded in

4 She had to ask several people until she finally ___ in finding some help.
A managed B succeeded C could

5 My little brother ___ to walk when he was ten months old.
A could
B was able
C succeeded

6 I tried to climb that mountain once, but I ___ to get to the top because of the bad weather.
A couldn't
B didn't succeed
C didn't manage

**8 Complete the text with one word for each gap.**

When I was eight, my older brother introduced me to a game on his mobile called Geometry Dash. He was brilliant. He [1] _____ complete all the levels. He let me have a go. It was simple. You had to make a little block jump over things by tapping the screen. At first I was terrible. I [2] _____ even jump over the first obstacle. But I kept trying and after about three hours I [3] _____ to complete the first level. I spent the rest of the day playing it and by the end of it I was [4] _____ to do the first three levels. That night in bed, I [5] _____ sleep because I kept on playing Geometry Dash in my head!



**9 WRITING Write a short text about some things you couldn't do when you were younger, but that you can do now.**

*When I was really little, I couldn't ride a bike, but I was able to do it by the time I was five.*

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## SPEAKING



**10 You're going to talk about an elderly person who has qualities that you admire. Make notes on why you admire this person.**

**11 Which of the qualities you have written down would you like to have in your own life?**

**12 What could you do to develop those qualities?**

**13 Discuss your ideas with a partner.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS