1 GRAMMAR ability and possibility,

a Read the sentences. If both forms are correct, tick (✔) the sentence. If only one form is correct, circle the correct form.

1 She *can* / *is able to* swim really well because she used to live by the sea. ☐

2 You need to *can* / *be able to* drive to live in the country. ☐

3 Luke *could* / *was able to* read when he was only three years old. ☐

4 If it doesn't rain tomorrow, we *can* / *we'll be able to* go for a long walk. ☐

5 Sorry, I've been so busy that I *haven't could* / *haven't been able to* call until now. ☐

6 If Millie had a less demanding job, she *could* / *would be able to* enjoy life more. ☐

7 I've never *could* / *been able to* dance well, but I'd love to learn. ☐

8 We're really sorry we *couldn't* / *weren't able to* come to your wedding. ☐

9 I *used to can* / *used to be able to* speak a bit of Polish, but I've forgotten most of it now. ☐

10 *Can you* / *Will you be able to* pick me up at the station when I arrive? ☐

11 To work for this company, you *must can* / *must be able to* speak at least three languages. ☐

12 I hate *not can* / *not being able to* communicate with the local people when I'm travelling. ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Complete the dialogue between Rob and Leah. Use the correct form of can, could, be able to. Pay attention to the bold context clues and the verbs in parentheses

Rob: Leah, now that you've been training for two years, (1) Can you lift (lift) 30 kilos without help?

Leah: Yes, I (2) can lift (lift) that much now. **It was difficult at first, but I can do it quite easily today.**

Rob: That's impressive! **When you were ten,** (3) _____ **you** _____ **(swim)** across a swimming pool, or were you afraid of the water?

Leah: I (4) _____ **(swim)** short distances, but I **couldn't swim across the whole pool back then.**

Rob: I remember that! **Last summer, you lost your room key just before reception closed. Fortunately, the receptionist found a spare key,** so you (5) _____ **(get)** into your room before the desk closed.

Leah: Exactly! **Yesterday, I tried for twenty minutes, but the suitcase lock was broken,** so I **(6)** _____ **(open)** it.

Rob: By the way, **you've been working on your English project all morning.** (7) _____ **you** _____ **(finish)** it yet?

Leah: No, I haven't (8) _____ **(finish)** it yet because **my computer stopped working yesterday.**

Rob: **The technician has promised to repair your computer by tomorrow afternoon.** After he finishes the repairs, you (9) _____ **(use)** it again.

Leah: **Great! If the computer is working tomorrow,** I (10) _____ **(complete)** my project before the deadline.

Rob: When I was at university, I ran five kilometers every morning, but I stopped exercising regularly three years ago. I did it regularly in the past, but not anymore. I (11) _____ (run) five kilometers every morning.

Leah: You should start training again. If you follow a suitable training plan for the next few months, you should (12) _____ (run) five kilometers comfortably.

Rob: You're right. I had that ability when I was younger, but I no longer have the same level of fitness.

Leah: When I was a teenager, I could speak French quite well, but I haven't practiced it for years. I (13) _____ **(speak)** it fluently anymore.

Rob: If you practice regularly, you (14) _____ **(communicate)** confidently with French speakers again, although I'm not sure how quickly you'll improve.

Leah: I love traveling, and I want to travel independently in the future. I 'd like to _____ _____ **(15) (travel)** around France on my own someday.

Rob: My new job requires advanced Excel skills, so I need (16) _____ **(use)** complicated formulas without help.

Leah: I can teach you! If you practice regularly, by the end of the month, you (17) _____ **(complete)** your reports much faster.

Rob: Thanks! Our company is planning to offer us advanced English training next year. After we complete it, we (18) _____ (communicate) more effectively with international clients.

LIVEWORKSHEETS