Grammar

Could / Couldn't

Sports & Abilities



We use **could** and **couldn't** to talk about things we were able or unable to do **in the past.**

could
= was able to do it.

I could ride a bike when I was five.



couldn't
= was not able to do it.

I couldn't swim last summer.



Remember!

Subject + could / couldn't + base verb

✓ She could run.

✗ She could ran.

A Choose could or couldn't to complete the sentences.

1. When I was six, I _____ ride a bike.
2. The baby _____ play basketball.
3. Yesterday, Emma _____ run very fast.
4. Tom hurt his leg, so he _____ jump.
5. Last summer, we _____ go to the park because it was raining.



B Put the words in order to make sentences.

1. could / She / swim .
   _____
2. couldn't / He / catch / the ball .
   _____
3. run / They / could / fast .
   _____

C Look at the pictures and read the sentences. Tick (✓) Could or Couldn't.

		Could	Couldn't
1	 He _____ swim last weekend.	☐	☐
2	 She _____ play tennis when she was little.	☐	☐
3	 I _____ rollerblade at the park yesterday.	☐	☐
4	 He _____ play basketball because he was sick.	☐	☐
5	 They _____ ski in the mountains last winter.	☐	☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS