

COULD and **COULDN'T** are the past tense forms of CAN and CAN'T.

COULD and **COULDN'T** refers to ability or inability in the past.

We use **COULD** to mean that we were able to do something in the past.

Ex: When she was one year old, she **could** walk.

We use **COULDN'T** to mean that we weren't able to do something in the past.

Ex: When she was one year old, she **couldn't** speak.

For each sentence, choose between **COULD** and **COULDN'T**.

1. When I was young, I play the guitar: it was too difficult for me!

2. Her grandmother was bilingual: she speak both English and Spanish.

3. Yesterday, Peter do that exercise alone. So, he called me for help.

4. In 1990, people use mobile phones as phones were too expensive at that time.

5. When his mother was young, she skate but she can't do it any longer.

6. We open the door: it was locked from the inside!

7. In 1900, people watch TV.

8. Mary's grandfather play chess and he was the best!

9. In 1945, people play video games.

10. But they play chess!

11. Peter play tennis last Monday: he had broken his arm!

12. When Ann was a teenager, she watch a horror film: it was too frightening for her!

13. Last Sunday, we take any photos in the museum: it was forbidden.

14. Mozart play the piano well when he was 5.

Complete the conversation with *could* or *couldn't*

Jenny: Was the play good last night?

John: Yes, but I _____ see very well. We _____ get seats near the front.

Jenny: _____ you understand it, though? I think Shakespeare's difficult.

John: Yes, we _____. This play was in modern English so we _____ easily follow it.