Review Grammar: 'could' or 'couldn't

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'can' is the present tense form of the verb and used to express possibility and **present ability.**

'could' is the past tense form of the verb and used to express possibility and **past ability**.

'can' or 'could' is used to make suggestions and requests. 'Could' sounds more polite when making request.

'cannot' or 'couldn't' is used for negative statements.

Practise A: Choose the correct answers from the drop-down menu.

1. She _____ the dress that she wanted as it was out of stock.

2. She _____ the piano when she was three.

3. Amin _____ football very well and he becomes coach for school students.

4. Ann _____ for practice yesterday as it was raining.

5. Excessive eating _____ cause obesity.

6. A long time ago, Linda _____ beautifully. Now, she can't.

7. Sasha _____ beautifully. She always gets praised by her schoolmates.

8. We _____ hear the baby crying all day yesterday.

9. Amin _____ play the piano blindfolded when he was a newbie.

10. Ying Ying _____ as fast as my sister.

Practice B: Choose the correct answers for the short dialogues below with 'could' or 'couldn't.

1. Rose: What is your ambition?

June : If I _____ I would like to be a scientist.

2. Jan : Is that Ain's daughter sitting in the school bus?

Cheryl: She _____ be, I suppose. She looks a lot like Ain.

3. Fikri: Could you do your Maths homework yesterday?

Roy : I _____. It was too difficult.

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4. Dev : _____he sing last night?

Joe : He _____. He wasn't well last night.

5. Mun Yee : Do you think this idea _____ work?

Diyana : It _____ if we make sure to follow the instructions properly.

6. Jefri: How was the concert last weekend?

Tan : I _____ go in the end because we had to rush to the hospital to see my grandfather who had sudden heart attack.

7. Hassan : _____ you tell me how much it costs?

Promoter : It's RM 100.

8. Brother : _____ you get us some coffee please mummy?

Mother : Sure, I'll make coffee for all of you.

9. Rita : _____ you ride bicycle when you were four?

Puva : I couldn't as no one taught me at that time.

10. Nozy : _____ you use a computer when you were eight?

Satya : I could use computer as I used to do my schoolwork using computer.

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