

MODALS AND PHRASES OF ABILITY

A: Drag the phrases in the box to complete the spaces in the reading.

can swim could all swim ~~couldn't swim~~ couldn't walk
didn't manage to was able to jump was able to stand
needed to be able to be able to managed to climb

When I was a young child, I ¹ couldn't swim – I only learnt to swim when I was about 14. I guess I thought that I didn't need ² _____ swim, because I never went to swimming pools. But one day I went for a walk on a hill near the sea with my friends – we were about 13 at the time. Part of the path was missing in one place – we ³ _____ along it, so we decided to try to jump across. My friend Andy was quite big, so he ⁴ _____ across it very easily. But then it was my turn – I was a lot smaller, so I ⁵ _____ jump across. I fell down the hill and into the sea. My friends ⁶ _____, so they thought it was really funny to see me in the water, but I was really scared. Luckily, I ⁷ _____ on a rock under the water and then I ⁸ _____ out of the water. After that, I knew I ⁹ _____ to swim, so I started going to swimming lessons every week. And now I ¹⁰ _____ really well.

B. Choose the correct options. If both are possible, choose both.

1. I went to India last year but I **cannot / could not** take any pictures because my camera was broken.
2. **He has been able to swim / He can swim** since he was a child.
3. When they were children, they **could / were able to** run really fast.
4. She tried to read War and Peace but she **wasn't able to / didn't manage** to finish it.
5. He **managed to / could** climb trees when he was a boy, but he **can't/couldn't** climb them now.

6. Katya needs to **can / be able to** speak Japanese in her new job.
7. You will **can / be able to** find a new person for the job soon, I'm sure.
8. I'm scared of **not being able to / can't** pass my exam tomorrow.
9. They **couldn't / didn't manage to** find a parking place.
10. I think everyone should **manage to / be able to** drive. It's an important skill.