

Could/Couldn't

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

COULD and **COULDN'T** refer 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 1, she could walk.

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

Ex: When she was 1, she couldn't speak.

Complete the sentences with 'could' or '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 1950, people _____ use mobile phones.
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. 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 when he was 5.

Had to/Didn't have to

HAD TO and **DIDN'T HAVE TO** are the past tense forms of **HAVE TO** and **DON'T HAVE TO**

HAD TO and **DIDN'T HAVE TO** refer to obligation in the past.

☺ We use **HAD TO** to mean that we were obliged to do something in the past.

Ex: When I was 10, I had to sleep in the afternoon.

☺ We use **DIDN'T HAVE TO** to mean that we weren't obliged to do something in the past.

Ex: When she was 4, she didn't have to go to school.

I. Complete the sentences with 'had to' and fill in the correct verb.

visit practise do walk wait help go

1. We _____ for the bus yesterday evening.
2. Last week Tom _____ to the dentist. He had a toothache.
3. Morty _____ swordplay. Mr. Gilderoy was his trainer.
4. Yesterday Malcolm and Betty _____ Uncle Godfrey to tidy up.
5. Rachel _____ her homework yesterday afternoon.
6. The children _____ to school this morning. There was no bus.
7. I _____ my grandmother yesterday. She's in hospital.

II. Form sentences with 'didn't have to'

1. Why did he clean the bathroom? *He didn't have to clean it.*
2. Why did they go by bus? *They _____*
3. Why did she get up so early? *She _____*
4. Why did you buy the gift for me? *You _____*
5. Why did they buy the books? *They _____*
6. Why did she wash the car? *She _____*