

Could or couldn't



Grammar Tips

Could and couldn't are the past tense form of can and can't.

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

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

- We could walk around the park yesterday morning as it was not raining.
- We couldn't jog at 6 p.m. yesterday as it began to pour.

A. Complete the following sentences with could or couldn't.

1. When I was young, I _____ swim as I was very afraid of water.
2. Zahirah _____ write the essay so she asked the teacher for help.
3. At 93, Joe's grandfather _____ drive a car as he was still very fit.
4. Michelle _____ join us for the party as she was away on holiday.
5. Zahir _____ play the piano when he was young because he was naturally talented at it.
6. Saiful _____ play chess well so he lost to Rashid.
7. Sarah _____ see very well so her seat was near the front.
8. The play was in modern language so they _____ easily follow it.

Was and were



Grammar Tips

We use the verb to be **was** and **were** to show the status or characteristics of something or someone.

Past Simple

I was happy.

You were happy.

He/She was happy.

We were all happy.

It was happy.

B. Complete the following sentences with **was** or **were**.

1. What _____ you doing yesterday at 5.00 p.m.?
2. I _____ asleep at that time.
3. The books _____ on the table when I left.
4. My father's car _____ in perfect condition last night.
5. The teacher _____ unhappy with my essay so I had to rewrite it.
6. Many books _____ on sale at the book fair.
7. Mr. and Mrs Mah _____ at home when the fire broke out.
8. _____ she your primary school teacher?