

## COULD / BE ABLE TO

### 1. Instructions: match the sentences with their functions.

|                                                           |                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Could I check my email on your computer?                  | Making a request              |
| My son could read when he was three years old.            | Past ability                  |
| Could you help me set up my blog?                         | Asking for permission         |
| If you buy a new laptop in the sales, you could save 30%. | Past possibility              |
| As a child, I could play outside whenever I wanted.       | Present or future possibility |

### 2. Instructions: complete the sentences with "could"/"was able to"/"were able to".

- The fire destroyed the building, but fortunately everybody  escape.
- When Tom was little, he  run faster than anybody.
- Ferrer played very well, but in the end Nadal  beat him.
- The police officer chased the pickpocket, but unfortunately he  escape.
- Muhammad Ali was a great boxer - he  beat anybody!

### 3. Instructions: which sentences in exercise 2 refer to a particular situation in the past, and which refer to a general ability?

|   |                    |                 |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | specific situation | general ability |
| 2 | specific situation | general ability |
| 3 | specific situation | general ability |
| 4 | specific situation | general ability |
| 5 | specific situation | general ability |