



**We use COULD when we speak about our abilities in the past. For example:**

I COULD eat a lot of sweets when I was 10 years old.

I COULD swim in the sea when I was 9 years old.

I COULD travel on a plane when my dad worked in Madrid.

**We use the negative form of could, COULDN'T (COULD+NOT) to speak about things we CAN DO now but in the past we COULDN'T. For example:**

I COULDN'T drive a car when I was sixteen.

I COULDN'T go out with my friends when I was eight.

I COULDN'T live away when I was younger.

**To form COULD/COULDN'T we write: COULD + verb without to.**

COULD FLY instead of COULD TO FLY

COULD EAT instead of COULD TO EAT

COULDN'T DO instead of COULDN'T TO DO

COULDN'T DRAW instead of COULDN'T TO DRAW

SUBJECT	COULD / COULDN'T	VERB IN INFINITIVE	ACTION IN THE PAST
I	COULD	EAT	WITH MY GRANNY WHEN I WAS 5 YEARS OLD.
YOU	COULDN'T	SAIL	WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER
THEY	COULD	SLEEP	TOGETHER WHEN THEY WERE 5 YEARS OLD.
WE	COULDN'T	RIDE	A BIKE WHEN WE WERE 2 YEARS OLD.
HE	COULD	GO	TO THE SEA WHEN HE WAS 4 YEARS OLD.
SHE	COULDN'T	GET	A PET WHEN SHE WAS A CHILD.

**To Form questions we change the order of could and the person (subject).**

COULD YOU PLAY CHESS LAST YEAR? No, I couldn't

COULD YOUR DAD DRIVE A CAR WHEN HE WAS YOUNG? Yes, he could.

If the answer is affirmative we write: YES, (the person) COULD

If the answer is negative we write: NO, (the person) COULDNT

**To form questions with WH- (When, what, who, where, why) we write WH-word following by COULD + the person + the verb (without to) + the question....?**

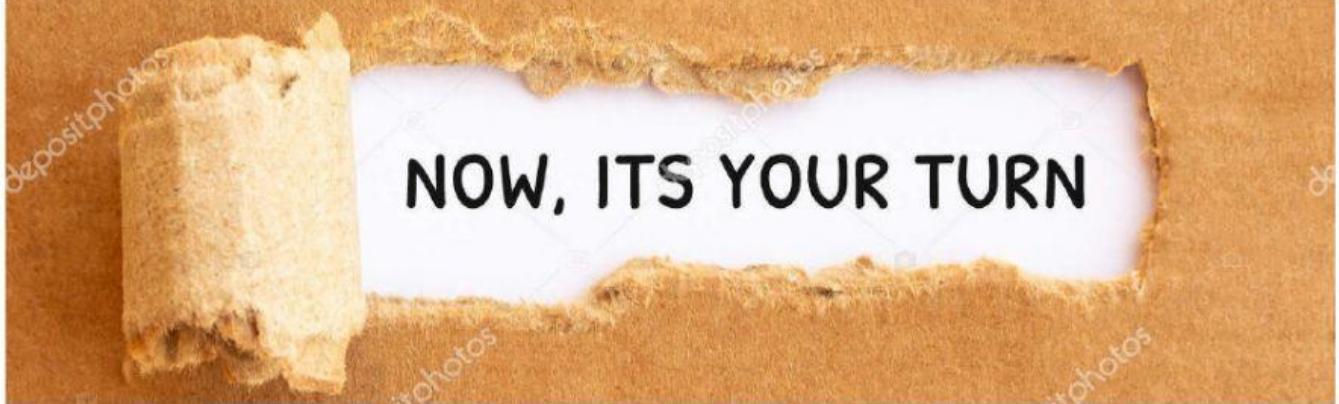
WHO COULD RIDE A BIKE WHEN THEY WERE YOUNGER?

WHERE COULD YOU BUY THE BEST CHOCOLATE WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD?

WHY COULD WE PLAY WITH PLAYDOUGH WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER?

WHAT COULD YOU DO WHEN YOU WERE FOR?

WH-	COULD	SUBJECT	VERB IN INFINITIVE	ACTION IN THE PAST	?
				- ... (TWO YEARS AGO) - ... LAST YEAR - ... (ONE) MONTH AGO - ... WHEN I WAS YOUNGER/A CHILD...	?
WHO	COULD	-	SWIM	ON THE SEA LAST YEAR	?
WHEN	COULD	YOU	FINISH	YOUR HOMEWORK YESTERDAY	?
WHAT	COULD	SHE	DO	FOR HIM	?
WHERE	COULD	WE	MEET	-	?
HOW	COULD	THEY	DO	THE HOMEWORK	?



## NOW, ITS YOUR TURN

1. Read the sentences and complete the gaps with the correct form of **CAN** or **COULD**.  
The answers can be in affirmative and in negative form.
  - a. I \_\_\_\_\_ (NOT) go to the party **last night** because I **was** sick.
  - b. A: \_\_\_\_\_ Noel cook Italian food?  
B: Yes, he \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. My sister \_\_\_\_\_ (NOT) go shopping **yesterday** because the store **was closed**.
  - d. Ellie \_\_\_\_\_ ride a bicycle. She rides it to school **every day**.
  - e. **I'm** very tired, so I \_\_\_\_\_ (NOT) go out to the park to play **right now**.
  - f. Excuse me, I \_\_\_\_\_ (NOT) hear you **right now**. The music is too loud.
  - g. I \_\_\_\_\_ drive a truck when I **was sixteen years old**.
  - h. A: \_\_\_\_\_ you see the moon **last night**?  
B: No, I \_\_\_\_\_ (NOT).
2. Choose COULD or COULDN'T. Write a sentence using could or couldn't depending the pictures.



1. **Could Noelia swim when she was a child?** Yes, she could. Noelia COULD SWIM when she was 5 years old.
2. **Could your mum cook the dinner last night?** No, she couldn't. My mum \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) yesterday because she had to work.
3. **Could Rob ride a bike when he was 4 years old?** Yes, he could. Rob \_\_\_\_\_ (ride) a bike when he was 4 years old.
4. **Could they dance last weekend?** Yes, they could. They \_\_\_\_\_ (dance) because they went to a party last weekend.
5. **Could your family go to the beach last Sunday?** No, they couldn't. My family \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the beach because it was raining last Sunday.
6. **Could Jaime watch the new film last night?** No, he couldn't. Jaime \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) the new film because his television was broke down.