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Can you speak English?

can/can't/could/couldn't · was/were · Words that sound the same · On the phone

Part 2

Four geniuses!

The people in the photos were all geniuses. Who are they?



Look at these sentences.

*I was born in London in 1973. I could read when I was four.
My sister couldn't read until she was seven.*

Match lines in **A**, **B**, and **C** and make similar sentences about the four geniuses.

A	B	C
Mozart / born in	Siberia / 1938	paint / one
Picasso / born in	Germany / 1879	dance / two
Nureyev / born in	Austria / 1756	play the piano / three
Einstein / born in	Spain / 1881	couldn't speak / eight

Work in groups. Ask and answer questions about you.

- 1 Where were you born?
- 2 When were you born?
- 3 How old were you when you could ... ?
 - walk
 - talk
 - read
 - swim
 - ride a bike
 - use a computer
 - speak a foreign language

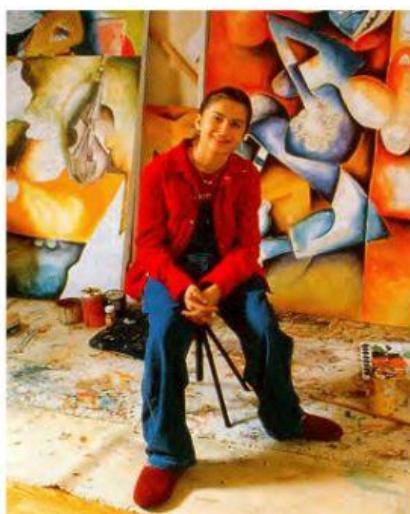
Tick (✓) the correct sentence.

- 1 I don't can use a computer.
 I can't use a computer.
- 2 Was they at the party?
 Were they at the party?
- 3 I'm sorry. I can't go to the party.
 I'm sorry. I no can go to the party.
- 4 She was no at home.
 She wasn't at home.
- 5 He could play chess when he was five.
 He can play chess when he was five.
- 6 I can to speak English very well.
 I can speak English very well.

READING AND SPEAKING

Super Kids

Look at the children in the photographs. How old are they? What can they do?



Now read the information about children

Little Miss Picasso

Alexandra Nechita is thirteen and she is called 'the new Picasso'. She paints large pictures in cubist style and sells them for between \$10,000 and \$80,000.

She was born in Romania but now she lives in Los Angeles with her family. She could paint very well when she was only four but her parents couldn't understand her pictures. Alexandra says: 'I paint how I feel, sometimes I'm happy and sometimes sad. I can't stop painting.' Every day after school she does her homework, plays with her little brother, then paints for two or three hours until bedtime.

Alexandra doesn't spend her money, she saves it: 'We were very poor when we were first in America. We couldn't buy many things, but now I can buy a big house for my family and we can travel the world. Last year we were in London, Paris, and Rome. It was fantastic!'



The New Mozart

Ten-year-old **Lukas Vondracek** is very shy, but every year he travels the world and meets hundreds of people. Lukas is a brilliant pianist and he gives lots of concerts. Last year he was in Washington, Chicago, and London. He is sometimes called 'the new Mozart'. He says 'I'm shy, but I love giving concerts.'

Lukas was born in Opava in the Czech Republic but now he lives with his parents in Vienna, where he practises the piano six hours a day. He goes to school two days a week. Lukas could play the piano when he was two and he could read music before he could read books. Now he can write music, too.

Lukas doesn't just play the piano, he plays football and ice hockey. He says: 'Mozart was poor and he couldn't play football, so I'm not like him at all!'

Answer the questions about Alexandra or Lukas.

- 1 How old is she/he?
- 2 Why is she/he special?
- 3 Where was she/he born?
- 4 Where does she/he live now?
- 5 Who does she/he live with?
- 6 Does she/he go to school?
- 7 What could she/he do when she/he was very young?
- 8 Does she/he have much free time? Why not?
- 9 Is she/he poor?
- 10 Where was she/he last year?

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

On the phone

When you do not know someone's telephone number, you can phone Directory Enquiries. In Britain you ring 153 for international numbers. Here are the names and addresses of some people you want to phone.



T 6.7 Listen to the operator and answer her questions. Get Nancy's telephone number.

Operator International Directory Enquiries. Which country, please?

You Australia.

Operator And which town?

You .

Operator Can I have the last name, please?

You .

Operator And the initial?

You .

Operator What's the address?

You .

Recorded message The number you require is