

Can/ Could

Can - potrafi

Could - potrafit

24 Past abilities

In the past simple, "can" becomes "could." You often use it to talk about things you "could" do in the past, but can't do now.

 **New language** Using "could" in the past simple

 **Vocabulary** Abilities and pastimes

 **New skill** Talking about past abilities



24.1 REWRITE THESE SENTENCES IN THE PAST TENSE USING "COULD"

1 Jimmy **can** cook Italian food.

Jimmy **could** cook Italian food.

2 Carl **can** run fast.

Carl **could** run fast.

3 Brendan **can** speak five languages.

Brendan **could** speak five languages.

4 Sally **can** paint beautifully.

Sally **could** paint beautifully.

5 Rob and Sarah **can't** dance flamenco.

Rob and Sarah **couldn't** dance flamenco.

6 Yasmin **can** climb a tree.

Yasmin **could** climb a tree.

7 Danny **can** drive a bus.

Danny **could** drive a bus.

8 We **can't** ride a horse.

We **couldn't** ride a horse.

9 Jenny **can** play the violin.

Jenny **could** play the violin.

10 Ben **can** fly a plane.

Ben **could** fly a plane.

11 Yuna **can** speak Italian.

Yuna **could** speak Italian.



24.2 USE THE CHART TO CREATE 18 CORRECT SENTENCES AND SAY THEM OUT LOUD

Janine could
dance very well.

Janine
You
Yanis

could

dance
speak five languages
play the piano

very well.
beautifully.

EfE L 2



24.3 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



Six people are talking about talents and skills.

When Sandra was one, she could...

- walk.
- speak.
- read.

① Martha could play the violin when she was...

- six.
- seven.
- eight.

② James could paint well when he was...

- three years old.
- seven years old.
- 12 years old.

③ When Max was young he could speak...

- seven languages.
- six languages.
- five languages.

④ Winnie's grandmother could...

- paint beautifully.
- bake cakes.
- dance salsa.

⑤ When Alfie was a child he could...

- climb a tree.
- climb a mountain.
- run very fast.

Translate:

1. Nie mogliśmy tego wczoraj zrobić.
2. Nie mogliśmy przyjąć zamówienia, bo nie mieliśmy wystarczająco dużo ludzi.
3. Nie mogłem się z nim zgodzić.
4. Mogliśmy jechać samochodem, ale pojechaliśmy pociągiem.
5. Nie mogłem zadzwonić, bo nie miałem telefonu.
6. Nie potrafiłem używać tego programu, ale się nauczyłem.

Had - miał, miała, mieli, mieliśmy, mieliście

Yes/No questions

Question	Short answer	
Did you have a good weekend?	+	Yes, I did .
	-	No, I didn't .
Did they have fun?	+	Yes, they did .
	-	No, they didn't .

1. I had a bad day yesterday.
2. We had a good time in Greece last year.
3. I got up late and I didn't have breakfast this morning.
4. We had a lot of work last week. Each day was busy.
5. She worked very hard. She had a presentation to prepare.
6. I didn't have time to talk to him.
7. What was the first car you had?
8. I had a serious conversation with my boss yesterday.
9. I had a teleconference when you called. I couldn't answer the phone.
10. I couldn't leave early because we had a lot of orders to prepare.
11. That was a really tough morning. I had a lot of emails to answer.
12. He was depressed because he didn't have a job.
13. Sorry I couldn't talk to you in the morning. I had a problem to solve.
14. Did you have a meeting yesterday?
15. He had a car accident last week.