

## WAS / WERE ABLE TO vs. COULD

WAS / WERE ABLE TO - to manage to do something in one particular situation

COULD – had the general ability to do something (state)

The negative COULDN'T is possible in both situations

Verbs : **SEE, HEAR, FEEL, UNDERSTAND, REMEMBER, TASTE** - always with COULD

Complete the sentences with **was/were able to** or **could**

1. My grandpa was very clever. He \_\_\_\_\_ speak five languages.
2. The fire spread quickly, but everyone \_\_\_\_\_ escape.
3. He hurt his leg, so he \_\_\_\_\_ (not walk) very well.
4. She wasn't at home when I called but I \_\_\_\_\_ contact her at her office.
5. They didn't have any tomatoes in the first store I went to, but I \_\_\_\_\_ get some in the next one.
6. My grandmother loved music. She \_\_\_\_\_ play the piano very well.
7. They boy fell into the river, but fortunately we \_\_\_\_\_ rescue him.
8. I \_\_\_\_\_ swim when I was 4.
9. He tried very hard but he \_\_\_\_\_ swim back to the boat.
10. We \_\_\_\_\_ put out the fire before much damage was done.
11. My daughter \_\_\_\_\_ walk when she was only 11 months old.
12. I \_\_\_\_\_ finish all the work you wanted me to do yesterday.
13. You were talking quite loudly. I \_\_\_\_\_ hear you.
14. How was the test? Easy, all the students \_\_\_\_\_ pass it.
15. He \_\_\_\_\_ repair the car but it took him a lot of time.
16. We wanted to go to the opera but we \_\_\_\_\_ get tickets.
17. Fortunately, I \_\_\_\_\_ get his address from his office.
18. I don't know how the cat \_\_\_\_\_ get through the window, but he did.
19. After the accident she somehow \_\_\_\_\_ walk home.
20. After several hours fire fighters \_\_\_\_\_ put out the fire.
21. Jan gave me a lift home so I \_\_\_\_\_ stay at the party till late.
22. he had a motorbike accident at the age of 18 and after that he \_\_\_\_\_ walk.
23. I \_\_\_\_\_ sleep very well for the last four nights. It has been too hot.
24. I \_\_\_\_\_ play tennis really well a few years ago, but not anymore.
25. 'When I was a child, I \_\_\_\_\_ see much better, but now I wear glasses.'
26. After the accident he \_\_\_\_\_ (no longer / walk).
27. I \_\_\_\_\_ run fast when the dog chased me.
28. When we went into the house, we \_\_\_\_\_ smell burning.
29. During the weekend we \_\_\_\_\_ do some gardening
30. Mozart \_\_\_\_\_ compose little pieces of music even when he was 5.