

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. The 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.