

## Modals of Ability Exercise 1

Put in 'can' / 'can't' / 'could' / 'couldn't'. If none is possible, use 'be able to' in the correct tense:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ you swim when you were 10?
2. We \_\_\_\_\_ get to the meeting on time yesterday because the train was delayed by one hour.
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ arrive at the party on time, even after missing the train, so he was very pleased.
4. He's amazing, he \_\_\_\_\_ speak 5 languages including Chinese.
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ drive a car until I was 34, then I moved to the countryside so I had to learn.
6. I looked everywhere for my glasses but I \_\_\_\_\_ find them anywhere.
7. I searched for your house for ages, luckily I \_\_\_\_\_ find it in the end.
8. She's 7 years old but she \_\_\_\_\_ read yet – her parents are getting her extra lessons.
9. I read the book three times but I \_\_\_\_\_ understand it.
10. James \_\_\_\_\_ speak Japanese when he lived in Japan, but he's forgotten most of it now.

11. I \_\_\_\_\_ understand the chapter we had to read for homework. It was so difficult.
12. I \_\_\_\_\_ lift this box – it's too heavy! Would you help me?
13. Lucy \_\_\_\_\_ make it to our meeting after all. She's stuck in traffic at the moment.
14. John \_\_\_\_\_ play tennis really well. He's champion of his club.
15. Unfortunately, I really \_\_\_\_\_ sing at all! No-one in my family is musical either.
16. When the car broke down I was really pleased because I \_\_\_\_\_ solve the problem.
17. Julian \_\_\_\_\_ play excellent golf when he was only ten.
18. My grandmother \_\_\_\_\_ use a computer until last month. Since then, she's been taking lessons at the library.
19. I \_\_\_\_\_ open this window. I think it's stuck!
20. Gill \_\_\_\_\_ play the piano. She's never studied it.