Could

50 **Listen and repeat.**



Amadeus Mozart could play the piano when he was four.



Albert Einstein couldn't spell.

Could is the past simple of the verb 'can'.

Affirmative	Negative
I/You could swim	I/You could not (couldn't) swim
He/She/It could swim	He/She/It could not (couldn't) swim
We/You/They could swim	We/You/They could not (couldn't) swim

Interrogative	Short answers
Could I/you swim?	Yes, I/you could. – No, I/you couldn't.
Could he/she/it swim?	Yes, he/she/it could. – No, he/she/it couldn't.
Could we/you/they swim?	Yes, we/you/they could. – No, we/you/they couldn't.

5 Look at the pictures. Complete the sentences with *could* or *couldn't*.

- What could Amy do when she was nine?

1 She ...could... swim.
2 She ..... climb.
3 She ..... sing.
4 She ..... read.
5 She ..... ride a horse.
6 She ..... play the piano.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

15 Past Simple (Had – Could)

6 What happened yesterday? Match and write sentences.

1 Kelly / be tired	a she / not go to school
2 Harry / have a toothache	b he / not come to the birthday party
3 The supermarket / not be open	c she / not water the plants
4 Isabel / be ill	d we / not go out and play
5 Tom / be away	e he / not eat his food
6 There / be a lot of rain	f Jim / not go shopping

1 Kelly was tired, so she couldn't water the plants.
2 .....
3 .....
4 .....
5 .....
6 .....

7 What could/couldn't you do when you were five? Put a tick (✓) or a cross (✗). Tell the class.

- swim ☐
- play computer games ☐
- speak English ☐
- run ☐
- count to 20 ☐
- sing ☐
- read and write ☐
- climb ☐
- ride a bike ☐
- dance ☐

When I was five I couldn't swim but I could play computer games.



Writing Activity

Write what you could/couldn't do when you were five.

When I was five I .....
.....
.....
.....
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS