Talking about ability

1. Choose the correct answers. If both answers are acceptable you should choose both of them.

1 **Could you** / **Were you able to** book tickets for the festival?

2 I answered the phone, but **couldn't** / **didn't manage to** hear anyone's voice on the other end.

3 I'll take my phone to the USA, but I **can't** / **won't be able to** make any calls from there.

4 We're having a party next weekend. **Can you** / **Will you be able to** come?

5 When the flood came, we **managed** / **were able to** climb onto the roof

6 Although she lives in Spain, she **can't** / **isn't able to** speak Spanish.

7 I **could smell** / **succeeded in smelling** gas as soon as I walked through the door.

8 The hill was very steep but we **could** / **managed to** cycle to the top.

2 Complete the dialogue with the correct forms of *can, could, be able to* and *manage to*. There may be more than one correct answer.

Leo **1**..... finish your science project last night?

Mia No. My brother had some friends round. They were so noisy. I **2**..... concentrate!

Leo **3**..... work on it tonight? I **4**..... help you, if you like. I'm interested in climate change.

Mia Thanks. I **5**..... find some statistics online, but I need to show them as diagrams.

Leo **6**..... you draw? I'm not very good.

Mia Yes. I **7**..... draw pretty well. Although I **8**..... probably do it better when I was ten. It was my favourite hobby. But I don't have time now …

Leo Don't worry. After your exams, you **9**..... spend more time on your hobbies.

Mia I **10**..... wait!

LIVEWORKSHEETS