

1. Can

2. Could

3. Be able to

4. Manage to/succeed in

Ability

Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

1 I _____ play football well, but I'm not very good at tennis.

- a ☒ can b manage c am able

2 Tom was late because he didn't _____ to catch the bus on time.

- a ☐ able b ☐ manage c ☐ can

3 Jerry _____ getting a place on the course.

- a ☐ didn't manage to b ☐ couldn't c ☐ didn't succeed in

4 It was difficult, but we _____ open the door and go inside.

- a ☐ were able b ☐ could c ☐ managed to

5 I won't _____ to finish my work before the end of the day.

- a ☐ able b ☐ succeed c ☐ manage

6 Omar wasn't _____ to leave work early, so he missed the appointment.

- a ☐ able b ☐ could c ☐ managing

Rewrite the sentences. Use the words in brackets in the correct form.

- 1 I'm afraid we aren't able to return the documents you sent. (can)

I'm afraid we can't return the documents you sent.

- 2 Were they able to find their way back easily? (manage)

- 3 Tina couldn't get a holiday job last summer. (able)

- 4 Some students managed to pass all the exams. (succeed)

- 5 Are you able to lift such heavy bags? (can)

- 6 Are you sure that Jack will manage to find the hotel? (able)

- 7 Lars didn't succeed in passing his driving test. (manage)

- 8 Do you think Anna is able to come on Sunday? (can)

If at first you don't succeed ...

In the 1920s, a young Japanese engineer applied for a job at Toyota, but he ¹ didn't succeed in getting (not get) the job, so he decided to start his own business. His name was Soichiro Honda.

When he was young, Ludwig van Beethoven had lots of violin lessons, but he ² (not play) the instrument very well. He was hopeless at it! So, he decided to become a composer.

In the future, nobody ³ (buy) any of Vincent van Gogh's paintings because they will be so valuable and expensive. In his lifetime, however, van Gogh only ⁴ (sell) one painting ... to a friend.

When Fred Astaire arrived in Hollywood, people said that he had no talent. 'He ⁵ (not act) and he ⁶ (not sing)!' said one critic at the time. However, Astaire did have talent. He ⁷ (dance) really well, and he soon became a star.

Harland David Sanders knew that he ⁸ (cook) chicken really well. He had a great recipe, but restaurants rejected it 1,009 times before eventually one restaurant decided to use it. He called it Kentucky Fried Chicken (or KFC), and the rest is history.