LANGUAGE IN ACTION

can, could, will be able to

1 **Are these sentences about the *past*, *present* or *future*?**

1 Most people couldn't send each other quick messages 30 years ago. *past*

2 It's possible that we will be able to interpret any language on a smartphone app. _____

3 Animals can't communicate in the same way that humans can. _____

4 I couldn't speak until I was three years old. _____

5 I won't be able to use my phone in the mountains. _____

2 **Complete the conversation with the correct form of *can*, *could* or *will be able to* and the verbs in brackets.**

KIM [1] *Can you tell* (you / tell) me why you didn't reply to my email?

DAN Sorry! I was at my grandparents' house in the middle of the countryside. I [2] _____ (not use) my phone.

KIM Really? But you [3] _____ (post) messages online. I saw them.

DAN Err, yes, but I [4] _____ (not check) my emails.

KIM Right, anyway, [5] _____ (you / help) me practise my presentation tomorrow for next week's test?

DAN Sorry, I [6] _____ (not do) it then. I'm really busy. I [7] _____ (help) you now, though.

KIM Oh, I [8] _____ (not practise) now. I haven't written anything yet.

DAN Well, we [9] _____ (write) it together now, if you want. What's the topic of the presentation?

KIM How to communicate successfully!

3 **Complete the blogs with one word in each gap.**

HOME ABOUT ME ARCHIVE FOLLOW

Julia

I [1] *couldn't* play the piano very well when I was younger. I didn't like practising because the piano was in our living room downstairs. That meant everyone had to listen to me when I played and no one [2] _____ watch TV or read. Now I've got an electric piano and I [3] _____ use headphones. It's great because my family [4] _____ hear anything I'm playing! So now I'm practising a lot and I [5] _____ play quite well.

Liam

I [6] _____ swim at all, but I'd like to. Last summer, I went with my friends to the beach and I [7] _____ join in the fun in the water. That made me feel sad, so I hope I [8] _____ be able to start taking lessons in the next few months. I know that I [9] _____ be able to swim like a fish after just a few lessons, but I just want to be confident in the water so that I [10] _____ be able to swim with my friends next summer!

4 **Look at the information about Olga. Write sentences with the correct form of *can*, *could* and *will be able to*.**

	1 play the piano	**2** type quickly	**3** sleep ten hours a night	**4** ask her parents for money
when she was younger	✗		✓	
now	✓	✗	✗	✓
in the future		✓		✗

1 *Olga couldn't play the piano when she was younger, but she can now.*

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS