

Choose the correct alternatives.

I hated most subjects at school. I especially didn't like physics. I didn't find it difficult and ¹*could/couldn't* understand quite a lot of it, but I ²*could/couldn't* pass the exam because I didn't study enough. I could ³*play/to play* lots of sports well, but I ⁴*could/couldn't* get into any of the teams because I was too small. History was another subject I didn't enjoy – I liked the subject but our teacher was boring. I ⁵*could/couldn't* paint really well though, so I really enjoyed art. I ⁶*could/couldn't* understand colours and shapes from an early age.

Choose the correct alternatives.

A: ¹*You could/Could you* ride a bike when you were 5?

B: No, I learnt quite late. I ²*could/couldn't* ride a bike until I was 12!

A: Really?

B: Yes, though I learnt to when I was really young. I could actually ³*drive/to drive* a car when I was 14.

A: How did you do that?

B: Oh, we lived on a farm, so we could ⁴*do/doing* lots of things like that. Of course I ⁵*could/couldn't* only drive when my dad was in the car and I ⁶_____ (couldn't) drive on the roads, just around the farm.

A: Right, I ⁷*could/couldn't* drive at that age. In fact, I failed my driving test three times!

Complete the sentences with *could/couldn't* and the verbs in the box.

decide make remember run stay awake travel
understand write

- 1 My parents were very happy that I _____ my breakfast when I was only ten years old.
- 2 Chris _____ until he was nearly eight, but now he's a journalist.
- 3 I _____ why studying was important when I was at school, and I didn't enjoy it.
- 4 Maria says she _____ anyone's name, but then she learnt a way to help her.
- 5 Gordon _____ faster than all his classmates because he had such long legs.
- 6 I _____ what to wear for the party, but then my sister helped me.
- 7 Aeroplanes _____ long distances when they first started flying.
- 8 I _____ for the whole opera because it was too long.