Grammar Task – Unit 2

Grammar

can, be able to, manage, succeed

1 Choose the correct alternative in *italics* in these sentences. In which two sentences are both options correct?

a How long *could you / have you been able to* drive?

b I *can't / 'm not able to* understand a word he's saying, can you?

c The teacher told me he *couldn't / didn't manage to* correct my essay because he *couldn't read / didn't succeed in reading* my writing.

d Has your brother *managed to / been able to* find a job?

e I *could / was able to* beat you at chess any day of the week.

f A tall man stood in front of me at the concert, so I *couldn't / wasn't able to* see a thing.

g I *can't / 'm not able to* believe it. I got an 'A' in maths!

h Fortunately, they *could / were able to* rescue the children from the burning building.

2 Complete these questions with an appropriate form of *can* or *be able to*. In which sentences are both forms correct?

a _____ come to my party on Saturday, or have you made other plans? (you)

b _____ speak Spanish before you went to live in Spain? (you)

c _____ ever _____ do everything people do, do you think? (robots)

d _____ get the sofa in if we took the door off? (we)

e _____ find out Richard's new phone number yet? (David)

f My jeans are torn. _____ repair them? (you)

g _____ picked us up if we'd asked you sooner? (you)

3 Complete these sentences with the correct form of *can*. If it is not possible to use *can*, use the correct form of *be able to*. You may need to use the negative.

a When you give your speech at tomorrow's conference, nobody _____ understand you unless you speak more clearly.

b I'm afraid I _____ go to the party. I was busy on Saturday.

c Janet _____ read before she was three years old. I think that's amazing!

d They _____ eat any more. They were full.

e Despite the delay, the passengers _____ get their connecting flights.

f I _____ tell Darren yet, but I will as soon as I see him.

g Sara _____ walk for a long time after the accident. She had to use a wheelchair.

h When the chip pan caught fire, John _____ put the fire out with a wet cloth.

4 Complete these sentences with *can, be able to, manage* or *succeed* in an appropriate form. You may need to use the negative.

a That's as fast as I can run. I _____ run any faster even if I tried.

b Despite setting off late, Karen _____ to catch the train.

c Even if the fire fighters had arrived sooner, they _____ saved the building.

d I'd like to _____ play a musical instrument.

e He _____ play tennis since he hurt his back.

f The high jumper finally _____ in clearing the bar on his third attempt.

LIVEWORKSHEETS