

Vocabulary

Skills and abilities

1 Cross out the incorrect alternative.

This programme is designed to help you ¹gain/create/develop excellent communication skills so you are more confident when dealing with clients. You will ²prepare/work on/gain presentations to give other members of the group and ³work on/develop/gain new friendships which will help you expand your clientele and work opportunities.

Want to write but don't know where to start? This writing course is for you! We ask all applicants to ⁴develop/gain/write a short story and upload it onto our website. Successful candidates will be invited onto our new course where you will ⁵get/improve/gain an official writing qualification.

Tired of asking your colleagues for help when you have a computer problem? We offer a course in basic computer skills which will help you to ⁶gain/change/increase your confidence with computers. We also offer more advanced classes for people who are interested in ⁷uploading/designing/creating their own website.

2 Complete the conversations with the correct form of the words in the box.

edit design gain improve (x2) learn prepare take

- A: Hey Kate. How's your daughter enjoying the course?
B: Oh, she loves it. Last week, she learnt how to ¹_____ her own website, and next week she's doing a course on how to take and ²_____ photos.
- A: Hi John. How was Thailand?
B: Oh, superb. I think the best bit though was the cooking course. I learnt how to ³_____ an authentic green curry.
- A: Oh, fabulous, will you teach me?
B: Of course! In fact, I still want to ⁴_____ my cooking skills.
- A: Hi Sue. Have you started your painting course yet?
B: Yes, I have. It's only been two weeks, but I think I'm starting to ⁵_____ some confidence.
- A: That's great. I'd love to ⁶_____ a course like that. I used to paint when I was younger, but I'd like to ⁷_____ my technique.
- A: Mel says she's going to ⁸_____ how to ride a horse.
B: Wow! I hope she doesn't fall off!



Grammar

Modal verbs: ability

3 Choose the correct alternatives.

- Could you/You were able draw when you were younger?
- Were you able/Can you to put up the shelves this morning or shall I do it?
- I wasn't able/couldn't come to class because I was working late.
- At the end of this course, I'll be able to/ won't be able design my own website.
- I can't/am able write fiction very well, but I'm good at editing.
- He won't be able/can't to lift this. It's too heavy.

4 Rewrite the sentences so that they mean the same. Use can, could or be able to in the correct form.

- She is a great dancer.
She can dance very well.
- It was impossible for me to learn the dance moves.
I wasn't able to learn the dance moves.
- There's a possibility that she could sell some paintings if she wins the art competition.
She will be able to sell some paintings if she wins the art competition.
- At first, I couldn't edit my photos, but now I can.
Now I'm able to edit my photos.
- If you're unable to find the exact ingredients, you can use substitutes.
If you can't find the exact ingredients, you can use substitutes.
- I used to speak a little French, but I don't think I can remember anything now.
I can't remember speak French any more.
- I tried to speak to Tim, but he wasn't there.
I wasn't able to speak to Tim because he wasn't there.
- In the end, I got into my flat by climbing the wall.
I climbed get into my flat by climbing the wall.