Topic: Could / Couldn't

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**COULD and COULDN'T are the past tense forms of CAN and CAN'T.**

**COULD and COULDN'T refers to ability or inability in the past.**

**We use COULD to mean that we were able to do something in the past.**

**Ex: When she was one year old, she could walk.**

**We use COULDN'T to mean that we weren't able to do something in the past.**

**Ex: When she was one year old, she couldn't speak.**

**For each sentence, choose between COULD and COULDN'T.**

**1. When I was young, I _____ play the guitar: it was too difficult for me!**

**2. Her grandmother was bilingual: she _____ speak both English and Spanish.**

**3. Yesterday, Peter _____ do that exercise alone. So, he called me for help.**

**4. In 1990, people _____ use mobile phones as phones were too expensive at that time.**

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**5. When his mother was young, she [ ] skate but she can't do it any longer.**

**6. We [ ] open the door: it was locked from the inside!**

**7. In 1900, people [ ] watch TV.**

**8. Mary's grandfather [ ] play chess and he was the best!**

**9. In 1945, people [ ] play video games.**

**10. But they [ ] play chess!**

**11. Peter [ ] play tennis last Monday: he had broken his arm!**

**12. When Ann was a teenager, she [ ] watch a horror film: it was too frightening for her!**

**13. Last Sunday, we [ ] take any photos in the museum: it was forbidden.**

**14. Mozart [ ] play the piano well when he was 5.**

**Complete the conversation with *could* or *couldn't***

**Jenny: Was the play good last night?**

**John: Yes, but I _____ see very well. We _____ get seats near the front.**

**Jenny: _____ you understand it, though? I think Shakespeare's difficult.**

**John: Yes, we _____. This play was in modern English so we _____ easily follow it.**

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