

'can' is the present tense form of the verb and used to express possibility and **present ability**.

'could' is the past tense form of the verb and used to express possibility and **past ability**.

'can' or 'could' is used to make suggestions and requests. 'Could' sounds more polite when making request.

'cannot' or 'couldn't' is used for negative statements.

Practise A: Choose the correct answers from the drop-down menu.

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ the dress that she wanted as it was out of stock.
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ the piano when she was three.
3. Amin \_\_\_\_\_ football very well and he becomes coach for school students.
4. Ann \_\_\_\_\_ for practice yesterday as it was raining.
5. Excessive eating \_\_\_\_\_ cause obesity.
6. A long time ago, Linda \_\_\_\_\_ beautifully. Now, she can't.
7. Sasha \_\_\_\_\_ beautifully. She always gets praised by her schoolmates.
8. We \_\_\_\_\_ hear the baby crying all day yesterday.
9. Amin \_\_\_\_\_ play the piano blindfolded when he was a newbie.
10. Ying Ying \_\_\_\_\_ as fast as my sister.

Practice B: Choose the correct answers for the short dialogues below with 'could' or 'couldn't

1. Rose: What is your ambition?

June : If I \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to be a scientist.

2. Jan : Is that Ain's daughter sitting in the school bus?

Cheryl: She \_\_\_\_\_ be, I suppose. She looks a lot like Ain.

3. Fikri: Could you do your Maths homework yesterday?

Roy : I \_\_\_\_\_. It was too difficult.

4. Dev : \_\_\_\_\_ he sing last night?

Joe : He \_\_\_\_\_. He wasn't well last night.

5. Mun Yee : Do you think this idea \_\_\_\_\_ work?

Diyana : It \_\_\_\_\_ if we make sure to follow the instructions properly.

6. Jefri: How was the concert last weekend?

Tan : I \_\_\_\_\_ go in the end because we had to rush to the hospital to see my grandfather who had sudden heart attack.

7. Hassan : \_\_\_\_\_ you tell me how much it costs?

Promoter : It's RM 100.

8. Brother : \_\_\_\_\_ you get us some coffee please mummy?

Mother : Sure, I'll make coffee for all of you.

9. Rita : \_\_\_\_\_ you ride bicycle when you were four?

Puva : I couldn't as no one taught me at that time.

10. Nozy : \_\_\_\_\_ you use a computer when you were eight?

Satya : I could use computer as I used to do my schoolwork using computer.