

Choose the correct word.

- 1 The exam was difficult but he *could / managed* to pass it.
- 2 I *could / managed* to play the piano when I was only five years old.
- 3 I *couldn't / could* go to the concert because I had a lot of homework.
- 4 She *was able to / couldn't* meet me because she wasn't busy.
- 5 We *didn't manage to / were able to* see the film because we were late.
- 6 He *could / managed* to speak French and Italian when he was thirteen.

Underline the correct words.

I *could / was able to* find my way because I had a good map.

Did you manage to / Could you book a table for us yesterday?

I'm afraid I *managed to / couldn't* understand what you just said.

I *couldn't / haven't been able to* swim since I got an ear infection.

Debbie *was able to / could* call me yesterday on her new mobile phone.

Complete the sentences using 'could, was or were able to'. The sentences with (+) are positive, and those with (–) are negative. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. We _____ finish all the food without any problem! (+)
2. We _____ find any fish at the market today. (–)
3. I _____ never _____ hold my breath under water. (+)
4. Ben _____ play tennis very well by the age of ten. (+)
5. Our neighbours _____ baby sit for us yesterday. (+)
6. Maria _____ go out yesterday because she didn't have any money. (–)
7. Jackie _____ drive us all to the beach yesterday. (+)
8. My uncle was very clever. He _____ speak four languages. (+)
9. My friend wasn't at home when I phoned, but I _____ contact him later. (+)
10. He had forgotten to bring his camera, so he _____ take any photos. (–)

Underline the correct options.

- 1 He loved the water and *could / couldn't / wasn't able to* swim when he was three.
- 2 I'd love to *can / could / be able to* swim like him.
- 3 She teaches French and she *can't / could / is able to* speak Chinese as well.
- 4 He's lost his driving licence. He *can't / couldn't / hasn't been able to* drive for the last two years.
- 5 We're a bit worried about Jake. He's six years old, but he still *can / can't / couldn't* read.
- 6 You used to *could / be able to / was able to* see the sea from here, before they built that block of flats.
- 7 He was heartbroken, but he *can / could / couldn't* understand why she'd left him.
- 8 I'm having laser treatment on my eyes, so I'll *can / could / be able to* read without glasses.

Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets. Use negative forms where necessary.

- 1 I'm really sorry we to the party last night. (able/come)
- 2 She finally a job as a waitress. (manage/find)
- 3 My father's going to give me some money so I my first car. (able/buy)
- 4 We were only at home for a few days and unfortunately we all the people we'd wanted to see. (not succeed/visit)
- 5 She did as well as she could, but on this particular occasion she just the exam on time. (able/finish)
- 6 The cup fell off the table, but luckily he it before it hit the floor. (manage/catch)

Finish the sentences: Can, can't, could, couldn't, was / were able to, managed to

1. A good runner run the race in under four minutes.
2. Bill is so unfit he run at all.
3. Our baby is only nine months and he already stand up.
4. When I was younger, I speak Italian much better than I now.
5. she speak German very well? – No, she speak German at all.
6. He draw or paint when he was a boy, but now he's a famous artist.
7. After weeks of training, I swim much faster.
8. It took a long time but in the end Tony save enough to buy his own hi-fi.
9. Did you buy any fresh fish in the market? – No, I get any.
10. For days the rescuers looked for the lost climbers in the snow. On the fourth day they saw them and reach them without too much trouble.