

1 GRAMMAR ability and possibility, reflexive pronouns

a Read the sentences. If both forms are correct, tick (✓) the sentence. If only one form is correct, circle the correct form.

- 1 She can / is able to swim really well because she used to live by the sea. ✓
- 2 You need to can / be able to drive to live in the country. ☐
- 3 Luke could / was able to read when he was only three years old. ☐
- 4 If it doesn't rain tomorrow, we can / we'll be able to go for a long walk. ☐
- 5 Sorry, I've been so busy that I haven't could / haven't been able to call until now. ☐
- 6 If Millie had a less demanding job, she could / would be able to enjoy life more. ☐
- 7 I've never could / been able to dance well, but I'd love to learn. ☐
- 8 We're really sorry we couldn't / weren't able to come to your wedding. ☐
- 9 I used to can / used to be able to speak a bit of Polish, but I've forgotten most of it now. ☐
- 10 Can you / Will you be able to pick me up at the station when I arrive? ☐
- 11 To work for this company, you must can / must be able to speak at least three languages. ☐
- 12 I hate not can / not being able to communicate with the local people when I'm travelling. ☐

b Read Karen Cooke's CV. Then complete the sentences with the correct form of **can**, **could**, or **be able to**.

- 1 Karen can play the violin.
- 2 She _____ speak a little Portuguese when she started working in Lisbon.
- 3 She _____ speak French.
- 4 She _____ design websites since 2004.
- 5 She _____ finish her PhD before she left the USA.
- 6 She'd like _____ speak Spanish.
- 7 She _____ speak a little Spanish soon.



Name: Karen Cooke

Date of Birth: 11/03/1985

Qualifications

- Degree in German with Marketing (2008)
- Master's in Business Administration (2011)
- Started PhD in Business (2014) – incomplete

Work Experience

- **2003–2005:** Trainer and Operator with Telefunkon, London
- **2008–2014:** Assistant then Marketing Manager, Telefunkon, New York, USA
- **2014–present:** Managing Director, JJAM Marketing Services Ltd, Lisbon, Portugal

Other Skills

- IT skills – advanced. Course in web design 2004.
- Full driving licence

Languages

- German (fluent)
- Portuguese (basic) certificate 2013
- I hope to start Spanish classes next January.

Hobbies and Interests

- Music – I play the flute and the violin.

- a Circle the correct verb. Sometimes both verbs are possible.

It's never too late

My 78-year-old father ¹couldn't / wasn't able to even turn on a computer until about two years ago. All that changed when he decided that he wanted to ²can / be able to use the internet and he did a course at his local Adult Education Centre. Although he really enjoyed the course, he ³couldn't / wasn't able to put what he learnt in his classes into practice because he didn't have a computer. So, for his birthday, I bought him his own laptop and that's when he really started learning! Now, he ⁴'s able to / can use the internet really well and send emails. What he loves most is ⁵can / being able to speak to and see his grandchildren on Skype at least once a week. We live in Australia, but he lives in the UK. If he didn't have a computer, he ⁶couldn't / wouldn't be able to keep in touch with us so much.



- b Complete the sentences with *can* / *can't* or *could* / *couldn't*. If a form of *can* / *could* isn't possible, complete the sentence with a form of *be able to*.

- 1 At the end of the six-week course, you 'll be able to design your own website.
- 2 Masha called me yesterday because she _____ remember how to get to my house.
- 3 Simon isn't going to _____ finish the report by the end of the day.
- 4 Pierre has passed his driving test, so now he _____ drive his father's car.
- 5 I haven't _____ speak to Harry for over three weeks. He never answers his phone.
- 6 The train was delayed, so I _____ get to the meeting on time.
- 7 Miriam hates not _____ play chess as well as Luke. He always beats her and she's a really bad loser!
- 8 Sometimes when you're on Skype you _____ hear the other person very well.
- 9 I'm afraid I won't _____ go away this weekend. I'm too busy.
- 10 You should _____ do this exercise without any help. It's quite easy.
- 11 We _____ park here; there are no spaces.
- 12 _____ do what you like is the best thing about a holiday.