

COULD or WAS / WERE ABLE TO

Could for a general ability, natural or learned, an ability that we have all the time. Habilidad natural o aprendida, una habilidad que tenemos por siempre

Was/ Were able to for the ability to do sth for the first time or on a particular occasion (I was able to.. = I managed to...). Habilidad para hacer algo por primera vez o en un momento particular.

Complete the following sentences using "could" when possible and "was (were) able to" when not possible.

Example: He could drive a car when he was eighteen.

- 1) He _____ swim very well when he was a baby.
- 2) I _____ understand English last year but I can't now.
- 3) I _____ understand what they were saying though they were far away.
- 4) The prisoners _____ escape because it was dark.
- 5) I _____ find my pen after looking for it for ten minutes.
- 6) I _____ see that he was bored.
- 7) He _____ pass his examination though he didn't study hard.
- 8) After running for ten minutes they _____ catch the last train.
- 9) When we were in school, he _____ read faster than anybody else.
- 10) The secretary _____ finish the reports before five o'clock.

Circle the best answer.

- 1) Can you / Are you able understand these instructions?
- 2) I couldn't / wasn't able to walk until I was one, and my mum says I seemed very excited when I could/was able to stand on my own for the first time.

- 3) The little girl can/is able to understand quite a lot in English after only 6 months of lessons.
- 4) Mark is a prodigy. He could/was able to solve mathematical equations when he was five.
- 5) Mark's brother is very different. He was really proud when he could/was able to solve his first mathematical equation at the age of 12, like the rest of his class.

Read the text and choose TRUE (verdadero) or FALSE (falso) according to the text.

"Teacher Vero memories"

This is teacher Vero. I can remember when I was younger, specially when I was at kindergarten I needed help to do a lot of things. I could put on my pajamas, but I wasn't able to do the buttons up by myself. I could read picture books , but I wasn't able to read story books by myself. There were lots of things I could do though!

I used to color with my crayons. I couldn't speak English as I do now. I used to have milk and cereals for breakfast. I used to have a dog, it's name was Duque and we could run so fast. However we couldn't ride a bike when I was four.

1. Teacher Vero can't remember when she was younger
2. Teacher Vero didn't use to have a pet
3. Teacher Vero used to have fruit for breakfast
4. Teacher Vero could read picture books.
5. Teacher Vero could speak English since she was baby

Good luck. Teacher Vero