

## Could



Listen and repeat.



Amadeus Mozart **could** play the piano when he was four.



Albert Einstein **couldn't** spell.

**Could** is the past simple of the verb 'can'.

Affirmative	Negative
I/You could swim	I/You could not (couldn't) swim
He/She/It could swim	He/She/It could not (couldn't) swim
We/You/They could swim	We/You/They could not (couldn't) swim

Interrogative	Short answers
Could I/you swim?	Yes, I/you could. – No, I/you couldn't.
Could he/she/it swim?	Yes, he/she/it could. – No, he/she/it couldn't.
Could we/you/they swim?	Yes, we/you/they could. – No, we/you/they couldn't.

## 5 Look at the pictures. Complete the sentences with could or couldn't.

- What could Amy do when she was nine?

- She ... could ... swim.
- She ..... climb.
- She ..... sing.
- She ..... read.
- She ..... ride a horse.
- She ..... play the piano.



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What happened yesterday? Match and write sentences.

- 1 Kelly / be tired
- 2 Harry / have a toothache
- 3 The supermarket / not be open
- 4 Isabel / be ill
- 5 Tom / be away
- 6 There / be a lot of rain

- a she / not go to school
- b he / not come to the birthday party
- c she / not water the plants
- d we / not go out and play
- e he / not eat his food
- f Jim / not go shopping

1 Kelly was tired, so she couldn't water the plants.

2

3

4

5

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What could/couldn't you do when you were five? Put a tick (✓) or a cross (✗). Tell the class.

• swim	<input type="checkbox"/>	• play computer games	<input type="checkbox"/>	• speak English	<input type="checkbox"/>	• run	<input type="checkbox"/>
• count to 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	• sing	<input type="checkbox"/>	• read and write	<input type="checkbox"/>		
• climb	<input type="checkbox"/>	• ride a bike	<input type="checkbox"/>	• dance	<input type="checkbox"/>		

When I was five I couldn't swim but I could play computer games.



### Writing Activity

Write what you could/couldn't do when you were five.

When I was five I .....