

Modals can • could

Grandpa could play football when was young.
played



He can't play football now.
plays

Sandy couldn't play the flute last year.
played



She can play the flute now.
plays

can't = cannot
couldn't = could not

Practice

A Fill in the blanks with 'can', 'can't', 'could' or 'couldn't' and the verbs given.

brush paint finish speak swim get finish tie

1 Look! Uncle Jim _____ beautiful pictures.



2 My little sister _____ her teeth by herself.

3 Danny _____ very fast.
He always wins races.



4 When I was four years old, I _____ dressed by myself.



5 Jacky _____ his shoelaces by himself last year.



6 Amy _____ English when she was three.



7 I _____ the test yesterday.
It was very difficult.

8 There is too much food. The boys _____ it.

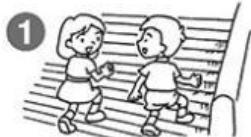
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Practice

B Write sentences with 'when'. Put in 'could' or 'couldn't'. Use the correct form of the verb 'be'. Follow the example.

1 the stairs climb four they be

Bob and Joyce could climb the stairs when they were four.



2 he ten cook be

Ken _____



3 four her name she spell be

Paula _____



4 he ride six a bicycle be

Ricky _____



5 seven the guitar he play be

Sam _____

Grammar
in Context

Aunt Kate and Helen are in the park. Complete what they say with 'when' and the correct form of the words given. Follow the example.

'Be careful, Helen,' says Aunt Kate. 'You ① can't swim (can / swim).

You ② (be) only five.'

'③ (can) you swim ④ you ⑤ (be) five,

Aunt Kate?' asks Helen. 'I ⑥ (can) swim when I was five. But I

⑦ (can / play) tennis and badminton,' says Aunt Kate. 'I

⑧ (learn) to swim ⑨ I ⑩ (be) ten.

I even ⑪ (enter) some competitions!'

'I ⑫ (can / play) tennis but

I ⑬ (can / play) badminton. Let's

play badminton together,' says Helen happily.

