

# COULD or BE ABLE TO

## 1. Match the following situations with the correct question.

Susan asks Mr Brown to pick her up at 5:00.

Someone's mobile phone is always ringing during a film.

You can't see the timetable at a train station because a stranger is standing in front of it.

Sam is listening to very loud music but Ali is studying for his exams.

The Smiths are going on holidays and they want their neighbor to look after their house till they come back.

You would like someone to take a photo of you and your friend in front of a famous monument.

Could you turn down that, please?

Could you take us a picture?

Could you look after our house while we are out?

Could you turn off that, please?

Could you collect me at the airport?

Could you move just a little?

## 2. Complete these sentences using positive or negative forms of could and be able to.

A. I \_\_\_\_\_ study English when I was at primary school because there weren't any English teachers.

B. We \_\_\_\_\_ assist to the picnic because of the bad weather.

C. I didn't have any phone when I was a child so I \_\_\_\_\_ call my parents if I needed anything.

D. I \_\_\_\_\_ play tennis well when I was a child; in fact, I won the school cup.

E. I \_\_\_\_\_ do my English homework last night, because I had left my book at school.

F. I \_\_\_\_\_ meet my friends last weekend because we didn't have any homework.

- G. We \_\_\_\_\_ get to the meeting on time yesterday, because the train was delayed by one hour.
- H. My little brother and sister \_\_\_\_\_ stay up really late last night, because it was our dad's birthday.
- I. I \_\_\_\_\_ drive a car until I was 34. Then I moved to the countryside, so I had to learn.
- J. James \_\_\_\_\_ speak Japanese when he lived in Japan, but he's forgotten most of it now.

**3. Complete the sentences with the correct form of be able to.**

- A. If we both get smartphones, we \_\_\_\_\_ chat on Messenger whenever we like.
- B. I love having a job, but I hate not \_\_\_\_\_ stay in bed all day.
- C. Oh, come on! You \_\_\_\_\_ find the link to the website – it's easy!
- D. Since I lost my phone, I \_\_\_\_\_ send or receive any texts.
- E. I was worried because I \_\_\_\_\_ contact Emily since the previous evening. Luckily, she came home an hour ago.
- F. I have a business dinner tomorrow night so I \_\_\_\_\_ come to the party. I'm very sorry.
- G. Kevin lived in Italy for six years, perhaps he \_\_\_\_\_ speak Italian quite well.

H. When the car drove into the lake, one of the passengers \_\_\_\_\_ open the door and had to be rescued.