

## LANGUAGE IN ACTION

can, could, will be able to

### 1 Are these sentences about the past, present or future?

- Most people couldn't send each other quick messages 30 years ago. past
- It's possible that we will be able to interpret any language on a smartphone app. future
- Animals can't communicate in the same way that humans can. present
- I couldn't speak until I was three years old. past
- I won't be able to use my phone in the mountains. future

### 2 Complete the conversation with the correct form of can, could or will be able to and the verbs in brackets.


- KIM** <sup>1</sup> Can you tell (you / tell) me why you didn't reply to my email?
- DAN** Sorry! I was at my grandparents' house in the middle of the countryside. I <sup>2</sup> (not use) my phone.
- KIM** Really? But you <sup>3</sup> (post) messages online. I saw them.
- DAN** Err, yes, but I <sup>4</sup> (not check) my emails.
- KIM** Right, anyway, <sup>5</sup> (you / help) me practise my presentation tomorrow for next week's test?
- DAN** Sorry, I <sup>6</sup> (not do) it then. I'm really busy. I <sup>7</sup> (help) you now, though.
- KIM** Oh, I <sup>8</sup> (not practise) now. I haven't written anything yet.
- DAN** Well, we <sup>9</sup> (write) it together now, if you want. What's the topic of the presentation?
- KIM** How to communicate successfully!

### 3 Complete the blogs with one word in each gap.

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Julia

I <sup>1</sup> couldn't play the piano very well when I was younger. I didn't like practising because the piano was in our living room downstairs. That meant everyone had to listen to me when I played and no one <sup>2</sup> watch TV or read. Now I've got an electric piano and I <sup>3</sup> use headphones. It's great because my family <sup>4</sup> hear anything I'm playing! So now I'm practising a lot and I <sup>5</sup> play quite well.



Liam

I <sup>6</sup> swim at all, but I'd like to. Last summer, I went with my friends to the beach and I <sup>7</sup> join in the fun in the water. That made me feel sad, so I hope I <sup>8</sup> be able to start taking lessons in the next few months. I know that I <sup>9</sup> be able to swim like a fish after just a few lessons, but I just want to be confident in the water so that I <sup>10</sup> be able to swim with my friends next summer!



### 4 Look at the information about Olga. Write sentences with the correct form of can, could and will be able to.

	1 play the piano	2 type quickly	3 sleep ten hours a night	4 ask her parents for money
when she was younger	X		✓	
now	✓	X	X	✓
in the future		✓		X

- Olga couldn't play the piano when she was younger, but she can now.
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