Can, could, be able to: Ability and possibility

Exercise 1

Choose the correct form of *can, could, be able to* (affirmative or negative). Use a form of *be able to* only if a form of *can* or *could* is not possible.

1 Can you read this for me? I see without my glasses.

2 I've never speak Spanish as well as my brother.

3 After 2 years in China, I speak quite fluently now.

4 I hate understand my French neighbours.

5 When he was 40, he speak six languages.

6 After 6 hours climbing, we reach the top of the mountain.

7 When I was a child I used to stand on my head.

8 Yesterday I lost my keys and I looked for them everywhere, but I find them.

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9Sally wasn't at home, but I contact her at her office.

10If you tell him your problem he might help you.

Exercise 2

Choose the correct option/s for each gap below.
Use *can* or *could* if possible.

1___ lend me a pen, please? Choose TWO correct options

A.Can you
B.Could you
C.Are you able to

2Not all countries _____ to manufacture high-quality products.

A.are able
B.can
C.could

3She fell into the river, but fortunately the firefighters _____ rescue her. Choose TWO correct options

A.were able to
B.could
C.managed to

4They _____ unlock the door and escape.

A.can
B.could
C.managed to

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5When you called yesterday I _____ pick it up because I was in the shower.

A.couldn't
B.wasn't able to
C.can't

6You _____ stay until late tonight if you want.

A.can
B.could
C.are able to

7_____ work from home is a big advantage for parents with young children.

A.Caning
B.Being able to
C.To can

8If you follow the instructions you should _____ set up the computer without a problem.

A.be able to
B.can
C.could

9I was alone all morning, so I _____ finish the book.

A.was able to
B.could
C.can

10Police officers searched the area but he _____ get away.

A.managed to
B.can
C.could

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Exercise 3

Fill in the gaps with the correct form of *can, could, be able to* (affirmative or negative). Use a form of *can* or *could* if possible.

1 _____ you help me with the bags, please?

2 I'm free tonight, so I'll _____ come and help you.

3 I used to _____ touch my toes when I was younger.

4 I remember my brother _____ draw much better than me.

5 We _____ get a picture of the painting because cameras were not allowed.

6 _____ I come with you to the party?

7 I haven't _____ sleep very well lately.

8 She says that she _____ speak five languages fluently.

9 We tried, but we _____ stop the fire.

10 He didn't want to come, but finally we _____ persuade him.

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