



GRAMMAR

Ability in the past: *could*, *was/were able to*, *managed to*, *succeeded in*

6 Read the examples from the article on page 52 and then complete the rule with *managed*, *succeeded*, *could*, and *couldn't*.

- Many of the people there couldn't even switch on a computer without help.
- After [...] a few basic IT lessons, they were able to use the computer confidently.
- The outcomes of the project were amazing: 89-year-old Sheila [...] managed to create a YouTube cooking tutorial.
- 93-year-old Marilyn succeeded in making a rap video.

RULE: To talk about ability generally in the past we use ⁵ _____ /*couldn't*.

To talk about ability at specific moments in the past, we use *was/were able to* ⁶ _____ to + infinitive, or ⁷ _____ in + gerund).

To talk about a lack of ability at specific moments in the past, we use ⁸ _____ /*wasn't* (*weren't*) *able to*.

8 Complete the text with one word for each gap.

When I was eight, my older brother introduced me to a game on his mobile called Geometry Dash. He was brilliant. He ¹ _____ complete all the levels. He let me have a go. It was simple. You had to make a little block jump over things by tapping the screen. At first I was terrible. I ² _____ even jump over the first obstacle. But I kept trying and after about three hours I ³ _____ to complete the first level. I spent the rest of the day playing it and by the end of it I was ⁴ _____ to do the first three levels. That night in bed, I ⁵ _____ sleep because I kept on playing Geometry Dash in my head!



9 **WRITING** Write a short text about some things you couldn't do when you were younger, but that you can do now.

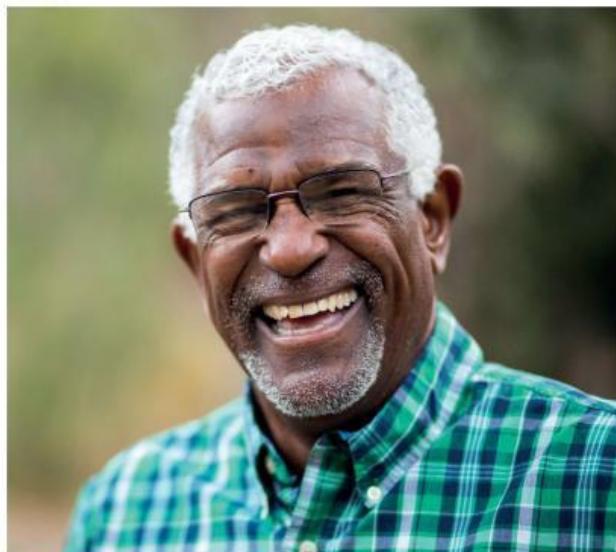
When I was really little, I couldn't ride a bike, but I was able to do it by the time I was five.

→ **workbook page 47**

7 Choose the correct answers.

- Her mobile phone broke a week ago. She _____ to access any social networks since then.
 - A couldn't
 - B hasn't been able
 - C hasn't succeeded
- He was so moved by the award he received that he _____ continue with his speech.
 - A wasn't able to
 - B succeeded in
 - C could
- He played football again for the first time after his injury, but he only _____ play for 20 minutes.
 - A could
 - B managed to
 - C succeeded in
- She had to ask several people until she finally _____ in finding some help.
 - A managed
 - B succeeded
 - C could
- My little brother _____ to walk when he was ten months old.
 - A could
 - B was able
 - C succeeded
- I tried to climb that mountain once, but I _____ to get to the top because of the bad weather.
 - A couldn't
 - B didn't succeed
 - C didn't manage

SPEAKING



10 You're going to talk about an elderly person who has qualities that you admire. Make notes on why you admire this person.

11 Which of the qualities you have written down would you like to have in your own life?

12 What could you do to develop those qualities?

13 Discuss your ideas with a partner.