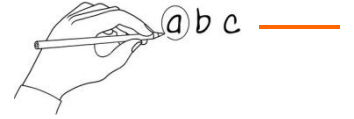




Modals - 'could' and 'couldn't' - ANSWERS

We can use *could* and *couldn't* to talk about abilities in the past.



1. True or false?

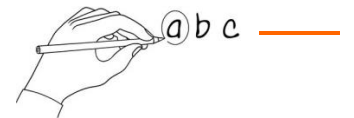
Read and circle true or false for these sentences.



When I was a baby I **couldn't** do anything, but I learned very fast. I **could** read when I was four and I **could** swim when I was five. My parents **couldn't** speak English when they were young but now I'm helping them learn!



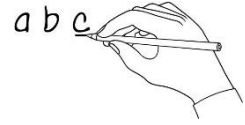
- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| a. She couldn't do anything when she was a baby. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> true | <input type="radio"/> false |
| b. She could read when she was two four. | <input type="radio"/> true | <input checked="" type="radio"/> false |
| c. She could swim when she was four five. | <input type="radio"/> true | <input checked="" type="radio"/> false |
| d. Her parents couldn't speak English when they were young. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> true | <input type="radio"/> false |
| e. She's helping her brother parents learn English. | <input type="radio"/> true | <input checked="" type="radio"/> false |



2. Choose the answer!

Read the sentence. Circle the correct answer.

- a. I could _____ football when I was five. **playing** / play / to play
- b. He could _____ when he was four. swim / swimming / swam
- c. Could she _____ before she started school? **to read** / reading / read
- d. They _____ play chess when they were young. **can** / could / could to
- e. We _____ make a cake until our dad helped us. **weren't** / can't / couldn't
- f. My best friend could _____ a skateboard when she was six. **to ride** / ride / riding
- g. I couldn't _____ my homework yesterday. do / to do / did
- h. How old were you when you _____ speak English? could / can / knew



3. Make it right!

Children find the mistake in each sentence and correct it. Possible answers (children may find different ways to correct the sentences):

- a. I couldn't find my phone yesterday.
- b. My sister could do karate when she was four.
- c. My dad couldn't drive when he was young.
- d. Could you play the piano two years ago?
- e. They could eat with chopsticks when they were six.
- f. I could do origami when my teacher showed me.
- g. We couldn't understand English before we started school.
- h. How many languages could you speak when you were seven?

4. Write and draw!

Children draw a picture and write about what they could do when they were younger like in exercise 1.

