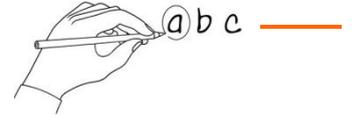




## Modals - 'could' and 'couldn't'

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



### 1. True or false?

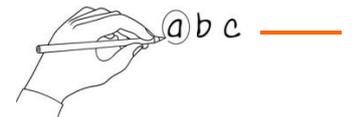
Read and circle true or false for these sentences.



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!



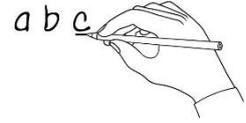
- |   |             |       |
|---|-------------|-------|
| a. She couldn't do anything when she was a baby.            | <u>true</u> | false |
| b. She could read when she was two.                         | true        | false |
| c. She could swim when she was four.                        | true  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



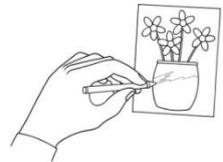
3. Make it right!

Find the mistake in each sentence and correct it.

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

4. Write and draw!

What could you do when you were younger? Draw a picture and write about it like in exercise 1!



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