

4B GRAMMAR ability and possibility: *can, could, be able to*

- a Circle the correct verb. Sometimes both verbs are possible.

It's never too late

My 78-year-old father ¹couldn't / wasn't able to even turn on a computer until about two years ago. All that changed when he decided that he wanted to ²can / be able to use the internet, so he did a course at his local Adult Education Centre. Although he really enjoyed the course, he ³couldn't / wasn't able to put what he learned in his classes into practice because he didn't have a computer. So, for his birthday, I bought him his own laptop and that's when he really started learning! Now, he ⁴'s able to / can use the internet really well and send emails. What he loves most is ⁵can / being able to speak to and see his grandchildren on video calls at least once a week. We live in Australia, but he lives in the UK. If he didn't have a computer, he ⁶couldn't / wouldn't be able to keep in touch with us so much.



- b Complete the sentences with *can / can't* or *could / couldn't*. If a form of *can / could* isn't possible, complete the sentence with a form of *be able to*.

- 1 At the end of the six-week course, you 'll be able to design your own website.
- 2 Masha called me yesterday because she _____ remember how to get to my house.
- 3 Simon isn't going to _____ finish the report by the end of the day.
- 4 Pierre has passed his driving test, so now he _____ drive his father's car.
- 5 I haven't _____ speak to Harry for over three weeks. He never answers his phone.
- 6 The train was delayed, so I _____ get to the meeting on time.
- 7 Miriam hates not _____ play chess as well as Luke. He always beats her and she's a really bad loser!
- 8 Sometimes when you're on a video call you _____ hear the other person very well.
- 9 I'm afraid I won't _____ go away this weekend. I'm too busy.
- 10 You should _____ do this exercise without any help. It's quite easy.
- 11 We _____ park here; there are no spaces.
- 12 _____ do what you like is the best thing about a holiday.

ACTIVATION

Complete the sentences about yourself.

- 1 I've been able to _____ since _____.
- 2 I used to be able to _____.
- 3 I enjoy being able to _____.