

Exercises

26.1 Complete the sentences using **can** or **(be) able to**. Use **can** if possible; otherwise use **(be) able to**.

- 1 Gary has travelled a lot. He can speak five languages.
- 2 I haven't been able to sleep very well recently.
- 3 Nicole can't drive, but she doesn't have a car.
- 4 I used to stand on my head, but I can't do it any more.
- 5 I can't understand Mark. I've never understood him.
- 6 I can't see you on Friday, but I can meet you on Saturday morning.
- 7 Ask Katherine about your problem. She might be able to help you.

26.2 Write sentences about yourself using the ideas in brackets.

- 1 (something you used to be able to do)
I used to be able to sing well.
- 2 (something you used to be able to do)
I used to be able to swim.
- 3 (something you would like to be able to do)
I'd like to be able to speak French.
- 4 (something you have never been able to do)
I've never been able to ride a horse.

26.3 Complete the sentences with **can/can't/could/couldn't** + the following:

~~come~~ eat hear run sleep wait

- 1 I'm afraid I can't come to your party next week.
- 2 When Dan was 16, he could 100 metres in 11 seconds.
- 3 'Are you in a hurry?' 'No, I've got plenty of time. I can wait.'
- 4 I was feeling sick yesterday. I couldn't eat anything.
- 5 Can you speak a little louder? I can't hear you very well.
- 6 'You look tired.' 'Yes, I couldn't sleep last night.'

26.4 Complete the answers to the questions with **was/were able to** ...

- 1 A: Did everybody escape from the fire?
B: Yes, although the fire spread quickly, everybody was able to escape.
- 2 A: Did you finish your work this afternoon?
B: Yes, there was nobody to disturb me, so I was able to.
- 3 A: Did you have problems finding our house?
B: Not really. Your directions were good and we were able to.
- 4 A: Did the thief get away?
B: Yes. No-one realised what was happening and the thief wasn't able to.

26.5 Complete the sentences using **could, couldn't** or **managed to**.

- 1 My grandfather travelled a lot. He could speak five languages.
- 2 I looked everywhere for the book, but I couldn't find it.
- 3 They didn't want to come with us at first, but we managed to persuade them.
- 4 Laura had hurt her leg and couldn't walk very well.
- 5 I ran my first marathon recently. It was very hard, but I managed to finish.
- 6 I looked very carefully and I couldn't see somebody in the distance.
- 7 I wanted to buy some tomatoes. The first shop I went to didn't have any, but I managed to get some in the next shop.
- 8 My grandmother loved music. She could play the piano very well.
- 9 A girl fell into the river, but fortunately we managed to pull her out.
- 10 I had forgotten to bring my camera, so I couldn't take any pictures.