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0 ratings0% found this document useful (0 votes)15 viewsThe document explains the difference between 'was/were able to' and 'could' in English grammar, highlighting their usage in specific situations versus general abilities. It provides examples…SaveSave was,were able to or could (1) For Later0%0% found this document useful, undefined English ESL WorksheetsGrammar TopicsModals Can, could, be able to PDF worksheets Online exercises Grammar rules PDF English grammar books PDF PDF book 1: English grammar exercises PDF PDF book 2: English grammar rules PDF Be able to worksheets PDF Free printable exercises with keys to download. Be able to PDF exercise 1 Key with answers 1 Use be able to and complete sentences (all tenses). Can - Be able to PDF exercise 2 Key with answers 2 Choose correct options in a multiple choice test. Could - Would be able to PDF exercise 3 Key with answers 3 Rewrite sentences and keep the same meaning. Online exercises Exercises with answers for pre-intermediate to advanced levels. Be able to Exercise 1 Learn how to use 'be able to' in all tenses. Can - Be able to Exercise 2 Practice the difference. Could - Would be able to Exercise 3 Make conditional forms (could - would be able to, could have been - would have been able to). Compare: Be allowed to Learn the difference between be able to a be allowed to. Grammar rules PDF: Be able to PDF rules Grammar rules with examples to download for free. English grammar PDF All PDF grammar rules on this website. Our tip: English grammar books PDF All PDF exercises and grammar rules from this website. top Download full-size image from Pinterest Can, could Ability We use can/could to describe ability, and we use can't/couldn't to describe the absence of ability. She could play the piano very well. Children can't concentrate for long periods of time. I can speak Chinese. Possibility We also use can to talk about possibility. Anyone can win this competition. All the participants are very good. I can't come to the party next week. Permission We use can/could to talk about something that is or was allowed, and we use can't/couldn't to talk about something that is not allowed. You can't smoke in the house, but you can smoke on the terrace if you want. We also use can to ask for permission. Requests We use can/could in requests, i.e. when we ask somebody to do something. Can you help me? Could you speak more slowly, please? See, smell, hear, feel, taste Verbs of perception (see, smell, hear, etc.) are stative verbs and cannot be used in a continuous form. Instead, we use can. Are you hearing that? Can you hear that? I'm smelling gas! I can smell gas! Be able to Be able to is often similar to can and we may use it instead of can to talk about ability. But be able to is more formal and is not as common. They are able to do the job faster than anyone else. But can only has present and past forms: can–could. For all other verb forms (infinitive, gerund, present perfect, etc.), we should use be able to. I'd like to can visit her more often. I'd like to be able to visit her more often. (to-infinitive) I don't like loud music in pubs. I like being able to talk with my friends. (-ing form) Will we be able to talk to the singer after the concert? (Infinitive) I haven't been able to study for the exam. (Present perfect) Can/could vs be able to We can use can and be able to to talk about general ability in the present. She can speak five languages. She's able to speak five languages. We can use could and be able to to talk about general ability in the past. My son could walk when he was 11 months old. My son was able to walk when he was 11 months old. But if we want to say that someone did something in a specific situation, we must use was/were able to, or managed to + infinitive. There was a fire, but all the workers could escape. There was a fire, but all the workers were able to/managed to escape. He didn't have an address, but he could find the place. He didn't have an address, but he was able to/managed to find the place. In negative sentences, both could and be able to can be used to say that we were not capable of doing something on a specific occasion. It was very dark, and they couldn't find the exit. It was very dark, and they weren't able to find the exit. Page 2 Download full-size image from Pinterest Can, could Ability We use can/could to describe ability, and we use can't/couldn't to describe the absence of ability. She could play the piano very well. Children can't concentrate for long periods of time. I can speak Chinese. Possibility We also use can to talk about possibility. Anyone can win this competition. All the participants are very good. I can't come to the party next week. Permission We use can/could to talk about something that is or was allowed, and we use can't/couldn't to talk about something that is not allowed. You can't smoke in the house, but you can smoke on the terrace if you want. We also use can to ask for permission. Requests We use can/could in requests, i.e. when we ask somebody to do something. Can you help me? Could you speak more slowly, please? See, smell, hear, feel, taste Verbs of perception (see, smell, hear, etc.) are stative verbs and cannot be used in a continuous form. Instead, we use can. Are you hearing that? Can you hear that? I'm smelling gas! I can smell gas! Be able to Be able to is often similar to can and we may use it instead of can to talk about ability. But be able to is more formal and is not as common. They are able to do the job faster than anyone else. But can only has present and past forms: can–could. For all other verb forms (infinitive, gerund, present perfect, etc.), we should use be able to. I'd like to can visit her more often. I'd like to be able to visit her more often. (to-infinitive) I don't like loud music in pubs. I like being able to talk with my friends. (-ing form) Will we be able to talk to the singer after the concert? (Infinitive) I haven't been able to study for the exam. (Present perfect) Can/could vs be able to We can use can and be able to to talk about general ability in the present. She can speak five languages. She's able to speak five languages. We can use could and be able to to talk about general ability in the past. My son could walk when he was 11 months old. My son was able to walk when he was 11 months old. But if we want to say that someone did something in a specific situation, we must use was/were able to, or managed to + infinitive. There was a fire, but all the workers could escape. There was a fire, but all the workers were able to/managed to escape. He didn't have an address, but he could find the place. He didn't have an address, but he was able to/managed to find the place. In negative sentences, both could and be able to can be used to say that we were not capable of doing something on a specific occasion. It was very dark, and they couldn't find the exit. It was very dark, and they weren't able to find the exit. Can, could, be able to PDF worksheets Online exercises Grammar rules PDF English grammar books PDF PDF book 1: English grammar exercises PDF PDF book 2: English grammar rules PDF Be able to worksheets PDF Free printable exercises with keys to download. Be able to PDF exercise 1 Key with answers 1 Use be able to and complete sentences (all tenses). Can - Be able to PDF exercise 2 Key with answers 2 Choose correct options in a multiple choice test. Could - Would be able to PDF exercise 3 Key with answers 3 Rewrite sentences and keep the same meaning. Online exercises Exercises with answers for pre-intermediate to advanced levels. Be able to Exercise 1 Learn how to use 'be able to' in all tenses. Can - Be able to Exercise 2 Practice the difference. Could - Would be able to Exercise 3 Make conditional forms (could - would be able to, could have been - would have been able to). Compare: Be allowed to Learn the difference between be able to a be allowed to. Grammar rules PDF: Be able to PDF rules Grammar rules with examples to download for free. English grammar PDF All PDF grammar rules on this website. Our tip: English grammar books PDF All PDF exercises and grammar rules from this website. top Understanding the differences between "could," "was able to," and "managed to" is important for expressing ability, possibility, and success in English. "Could, Was Able to, Managed to: Exercises" will help you practice using these expressions correctly in different contexts. Remember, "could" is used for general ability in the past, "was able to" can refer to specific instances of success or general ability, and "managed to" is used to emphasize achieving something despite difficulty. Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks Complete the sentences with the correct form of "could," "was/were able to," or "managed to." When she was younger, she ___ speak three languages fluently. It was a tough exam, but I ___ pass it after studying hard. The team ___ win the game, even though they were losing at halftime. He ___ solve the math problem because he remembered the formula. We ___ see the fireworks from our balcony last night. Despite the heavy rain, they ___ finish the race. I ___ swim across the lake when I was a teenager. After several attempts, he finally ___ fix the computer. They ___ escape the building before the fire spread. She ___ read when she was just four years old. Answers: could managed to managed to was able to could managed to could managed to were able to could Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Option Choose the correct option to complete each sentence: "could," "was/were able to," or "managed to." She ___ (could/was able to/managed to) run a marathon when she was 20. I ___ (could/was able to/managed to) open the jar after trying for several minutes. They ___ (could/were able to/managed to) finish the project on time, despite all the problems. He ___ (could/was able to/managed to) ride a bike when he was five years old. After the storm, we ___ (could/were able to/managed to) find our way back to the campsite. Answers: could managed to managed to could were able to Exercise 3: Rewrite the Sentences Rewrite the sentences using "could," "was/were able to," or "managed to." It was very windy, but they succeeded in setting up the tent. Rewrite: Despite the wind, they ___ set up the tent. She knew how to play the guitar when she was 10. Rewrite: She ___ play the guitar when she was 10. After practicing a lot, he succeeded in speaking fluent French. Rewrite: After practicing a lot, he ___ speak fluent French. I had the ability to solve puzzles easily when I was a child. Rewrite: I ___ solve puzzles easily when I was a child. Even though the store was crowded, we succeeded in buying the tickets. Rewrite: Even though the store was crowded, we ___ buy the tickets. Answers: managed to could managed to could managed to Exercise 4: Correct the Errors Identify and correct the errors in these sentences related to the use of "could," "was able to," and "managed to." She could passed the test after studying all night. Correction: She managed to pass the test after studying all night. When I was a kid, I managed to ride a bike. Correction: When I was a kid, I could ride a bike. He was able to swim when he was only three years old. Correction: He could swim when he was only three years old. They could finish the project on time, despite all the challenges. Correction: They managed to finish the project on time, despite all the challenges. She managed to play the piano well when she was young. Correction: She could play the piano well when she was young. Summary These exercises help you practice the different uses of "could," "was able to," and "managed to" to express ability and success in English. By understanding and practicing these nuances, you'll improve your accuracy in describing past abilities and achievements.