

1 – CHOOSE THE RIGHT OPTION

I _____ finish the report on time.

- managed to
- could

The car wasn't turning on at first, but my friend _____ jump start it.

- was able to
- could

How did he _____ find our house?

- manage to
- able to

They _____ come by car or train.

- could
- managed to

She _____ dance ballet by age 5.

- could
- managed to

Our daughter was sick so we _____ attend the party.

- weren't able to
- weren't managed to

_____ get your phone fixed?

- Did you managed to
- Could you

2 - In the missing words, use different past forms including can, to be able to and manage to.

1. We were _____ leave our baggage at the hotel reception and spend the day sightseeing.
2. They did not _____ get a reservation at the new restaurant.
3. The weather was bad so I _____ able to get a flight home.

4. I afford a car without a loan.
5. How did she get that new job? It was so competitive!
6. You barely speak French before you moved to Paris.

3 - Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets. Use negative forms where necessary.

- 1 I'm really sorry we to the party last night. (able/come)
- 2 She a job as a waitress. (manage/find)
- 3 My father's going to give me some money so I my first car. (able/buy)
- 4 We only at home for a few days and unfortunately we all the people we'd wanted to see. (not succeed/visit)
- 5 She did as well as she could, but on this particular occasion she the exam on time. (able/finish)
- 6 The cup fell off the table, but luckily it before it hit the floor. (manage/catch)

4 – Complete with could / was-were able to / managed to

1. "When I was young, I climb any tree." (General past ability)
2. "After hours of work, they finally find the missing keys." (Difficult past success)
3. "I'm sorry, I help you yesterday; I was too busy." (Specific past inability)
4. " you hear the announcement in the loud hall?" (Specific past ability/inability)

5 - Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs below. Use contractions where possible.

be able to can could manage succeed

1. I understand a word she said. She spoke too quickly.
2. to use a computer is a requirement of many jobs today.
3. I think I know what's wrong with the TV. I might fix it.
4. We were surprised when Chris to pass his driving test first time.

5. The music from Beth's house was really loud, I'm sure everyone for miles around _____ hear it
6. It was only after hours of climbing, that they _____ in reaching the top of the mountain.
7. I've got lessons all morning, so I _____ meet you until the afternoon.
8. Do you think you'll _____ finish this assignment for tomorrow?

6 - Fill in the blanks with either “could,” “was/were able to” or “managed to” (or their negative forms). In some cases, more than one answer is possible.

1. Ten years ago, people _____ smoke right outside the building. Now they have to leave the business park.
2. When I was in college, I met a guy who _____ speak seven languages.
3. I have no idea how they _____ find a better deal than what we offered them.
4. _____ to find a caterer for the event next week?
5. Unfortunately, we _____ meet the deadline. We needed an extra day.
6. I delegated that task to Mike. I told him I was having some difficulties with it, and he told me that he _____ handle it.
7. Even though I woke up a half an hour late, I _____ get to work on time.
8. Unfortunately, I woke up half an hour late and I _____ get to work on time.
9. When our company had only 25 employees we _____ have meetings with the entire company. Now it's much more difficult and requires more planning.
10. I have no idea how we _____ get a reservation for tonight on such short notice.