

A WHAT'S THE WORD?

10

could can
couldn't can't



1. Before I took lessons from Mrs. Rossini, I couldn't play the violin very well. Now I can play the violin beautifully.
2. I'm sorry you _____ go to the beach with us last weekend. Maybe you _____ go with us next weekend.
3. When I first arrived in this country, I was frustrated because I _____ speak English. Now I'm happy because I _____ speak English very well.
4. We _____ hear him because he spoke too softly.
5. We really want to fire Howard, but we _____. His father is president of the company.
6. My parents tell me that I was a very bright little girl. According to them, I _____ read when I was two years old, and I _____ write when I was three years old.
7. We _____ move the refrigerator by ourselves because it was too heavy.
8. I _____ go to work yesterday because I was sick. But today I'm feeling much better. I'm sure I _____ go to work tomorrow.
9. Michael _____ go to lunch with his co-workers because he was too busy.
10. I _____ play basketball when I was in high school because I was too short. But I wasn't upset because I _____ play on the baseball team.

11. I'm disappointed. We _____ barbecue tonight. It's raining.

12. I _____ ask my boss for a raise. I was too nervous.

B GRAMMARRAP: They Couldn't



Listen. Then clap and practice.



- A. She tried on the skirt, but she couldn't zip it up.
B. Was it too small?
A. Much too small.



- A. She tried on the shoes, but she couldn't keep them on.
B. Were they too big?
A. Much too big.



- A. He tried to talk, but he couldn't say a word.
B. Was he too nervous?
A. Much too nervous.



- A. She sat at the table, but she couldn't eat a thing.
B. Was she too excited?
A. Much too excited.



- A. He went to the lecture, but he couldn't stay awake.
B. Was he too tired?
A. Much too tired.

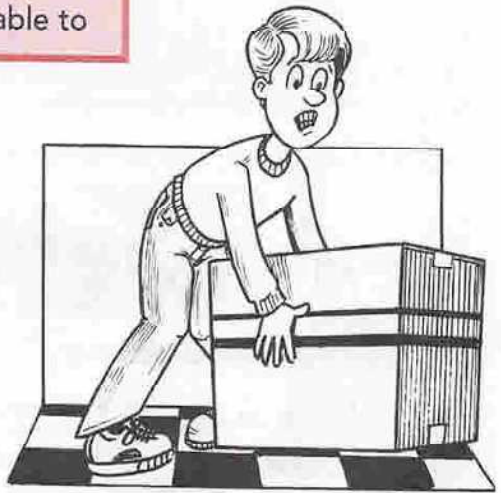


- A. She took the course, but she couldn't pass the test.
B. Was it too hard?
A. Much too hard.

C YOU DECIDE: Why Weren't They Able to?

wasn't able to

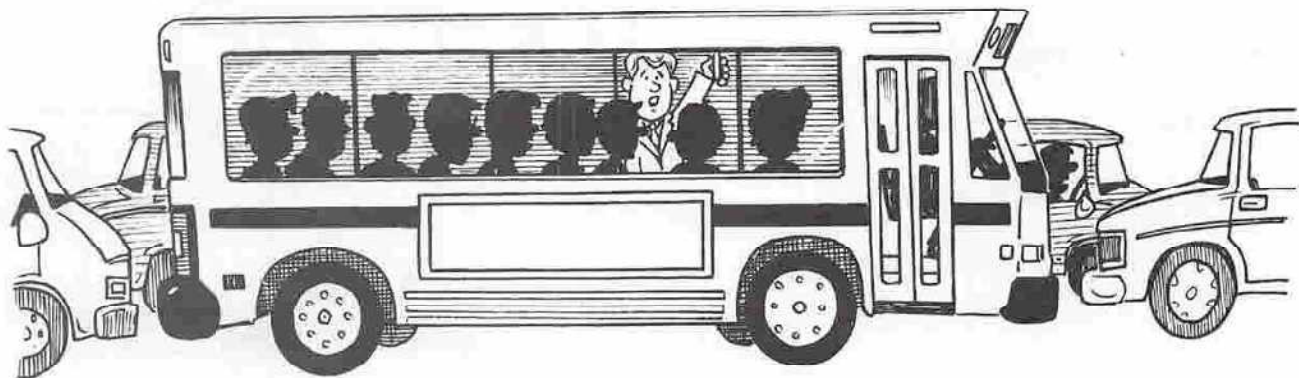
weren't able to



1. Daniel wasn't able to lift the package
because it was too heavy (or)
he was too tired (or)
he was too weak.
2. Barbara _____ go to work yesterday because _____
3. My grandparents _____ finish their dinner because _____
4. Jim _____ buy the car he wanted because _____
5. I _____ get on the bus this morning because _____
6. The students in my class _____ solve the puzzle because _____
7. Maria _____ fall asleep last night because _____
8. My brother _____ wear my tuxedo to his wedding because _____
9. We _____ go sailing last weekend because _____
10. Robert _____ say "I love you" to his girlfriend because _____

D WHAT'S THE WORD?

{ could
was/were able to } { couldn't
wasn't/weren't able to } had to



1. The bus was very crowded this morning. I couldn't
wasn't able to sit. I had to stand.
2. Carlos was very disappointed. He _____ take his daughter to the circus on Saturday because he _____ work overtime.
3. When I was young, I was very energetic. I _____ run five miles every day.
4. When Judy was ten years old, her family moved to a different city. She was sad because she _____ see her old friends very often.
5. When I was a little boy, I was upset because my older brothers _____ go to bed late, but I _____. I _____ go to bed at 7:30 every night.
6. We're sorry we _____ go to the tennis match with you yesterday. We _____ take our car to the mechanic.
7. When I was a teenager, I was very athletic. I _____ play baseball, and I _____ play football. But I was a terrible singer and dancer. I _____ sing, and I _____ dance.
8. My wife and I _____ go to our son's soccer game after school yesterday because we _____ meet with our lawyer.
9. Brian was upset because he wanted to have long hair, but he _____. He _____ go to the barber every month because his parents liked very short hair.

E YOU DECIDE: Why Didn't They Enjoy Themselves?

myself
yourself
himself
herself

ourselves
yourselves
themselves

couldn't
wasn't able to
weren't able to

1. I didn't enjoy myself at the beach yesterday.

It was very windy, and I couldn't go swimming (or)

wasn't able to go sailing



2. Jim and his friends didn't enjoy _____ at the movie yesterday. It was very scary, and they _____

3. Nancy didn't enjoy _____ at the museum. It was very crowded, and she _____

4. Edward didn't enjoy _____ at the restaurant last night. The food was very spicy, and he _____

5. I didn't enjoy _____ at the circus last Friday. It was very noisy, and I _____

6. We didn't enjoy _____ on our vacation last winter. We got sick, and we _____

F WHAT'S THE WORD?

1. Walter was pleased. He didn't have to call the plumber. He _____ fix the sink himself.

- a. couldn't
b. was able to

2. I _____ get to work on time this morning because the bus was late.

- a. was able to
b. couldn't

3. I missed the company picnic yesterday because I _____ go to the eye doctor.

- a. had to
b. wasn't able to

4. We _____ finish our dinner because we were too full.

- a. could
b. weren't able to

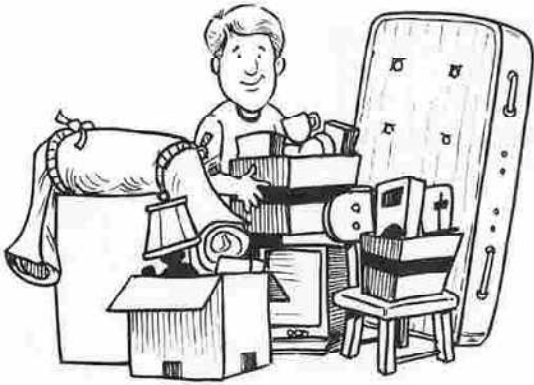
5. I forgot my briefcase, and I _____ to go back home and get it.

- a. wasn't able to
b. had

6. We _____ fall asleep last night. Our neighbors played their music very loudly.

- a. couldn't
b. were able to

G WHY NOT?



I've
he's

she's
we've

they've
you've

got to

Tomorrow afternoon David is moving to a new apartment next door. He asked a lot of people to help him, but unfortunately, everybody is busy tomorrow afternoon, and nobody will be able to help him. They all have things they've got to do.



1. His friend Bob won't be able to help him.

_____ **He's got to** _____ take his daughter to the doctor.



2. His friend Sandra won't be able to help him.

_____ drive her brother to the train station.



3. I'm sorry. I won't be able to help you.

_____ take care of my neighbor's little boy.



4. Tom and I won't be able to help you, either.

_____ stay home and wait for the plumber.



5. David's brother won't be able to help him.

_____ study for an important English test.



6. David's cousins won't be able to help him.

_____ go to baseball practice.



7. We're really sorry, David.

Unfortunately, _____ move to your new apartment by yourself.

H MY FRIEND LISA

will / won't be able to

My friend Lisa is an active, energetic person.

1. She goes jogging every morning.
2. She rides her bicycle to school every day.
3. She plays tennis on the school team.
4. She swims every afternoon.
5. She does exercises every evening.

She's also very talented and capable.

6. She plays the violin.
7. She bakes delicious cakes and cookies.
8. She makes her own clothes.
9. She fixes her computer when it's broken.

Last week on Friday the 13th Lisa went skating, and unfortunately, she broke her leg. The doctor says she'll have to rest her leg all month. Lisa is very upset.



1. She won't be able to go jogging every morning.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Fortunately, there are many things that Lisa WILL be able to do.

6. She'll be able to play the violin.

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

I THEY'LL BE ABLE TO

couldn't

will be able to

1. My daughter couldn't go to her ballet lesson today, but I'm sure she'll be able to go next week.
2. We _____ assemble our new lamp yesterday. I hope _____ assemble it today.
3. Bill _____ go to football practice today. He thinks _____ go to football practice tomorrow.
4. I _____ fall asleep last night. I hope _____ fall asleep tonight.

J THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO

won't be able to have/has got to

1. I'm sorry. I won't be able to cook dinner tonight.
I've got to work overtime.



2. I'm terribly sorry. My daughter _____ baby-sit
 this afternoon. _____ practice the violin.



3. My children _____ eat ice cream at the party.
 Their doctor told them _____ eat fruit for dessert.



4. I'm really upset. My father _____ lend us money
 because _____ buy a new van.



5. Unfortunately, my husband and I _____ play golf
 with you today. _____ take our dog to the vet.



K LISTENING



Listen to each story, and then choose the correct answers to the questions you hear.



William's New Apartment

1. a. He was able to open his living room windows.
 b. He couldn't open his living room windows.
2. a. The lights in his apartment went out.
 b. His apartment is too bright.
3. a. He won't be able to cook dinner.
 b. He'll be able to watch his favorite programs on TV.



Mr. and Mrs. Clark's New Computer

4. a. They could assemble their computer easily.
 b. They weren't able to assemble their computer easily.
5. a. Their computer crashed.
 b. They used their new computer.
6. a. They'll be able to call their grandchildren.
 b. They won't be able to send any e-mail to their grandchildren.

L GRAMMARRAP: Were You Able to?



Listen. Then clap and practice.



- A. Were you able to leave early last night?
 B. No. I had to work until seven.
 A. Were you able to get to the office on time?
 B. No. I couldn't get there 'till eleven.
 A. Were you able to take the six o'clock bus?
 B. No. I had to wait until eight.
 A. Were you able to get to the meeting on time?
 B. No. I had to walk in late.

M GRAMMARRAP: They Won't Be Able to



Listen. Then clap and practice.

- A. Will you be able to join us for dinner?
 B. No, I won't. I've got to work late.
 A. Will he be able to meet us tomorrow?
 B. No, he won't. He's got to see Kate.
 A. Will she be able to come to the meeting?
 B. No, she won't. She's got to call Jack.
 A. Will they be able to go on the sightseeing trip?
 B. No, they won't. They've got to unpack.

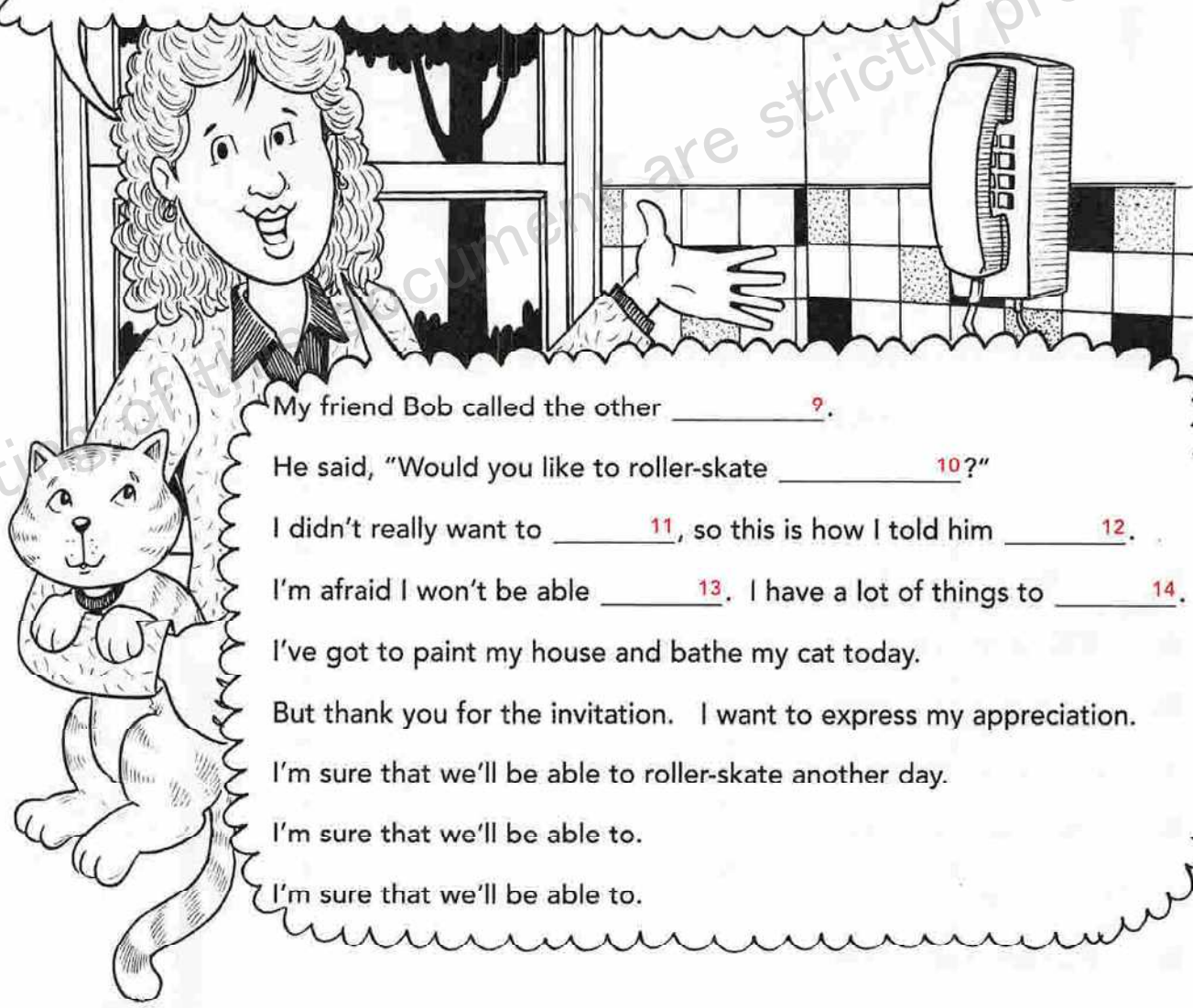




Listen and fill in the words to the song. Then listen again and sing along.

day do go no play to today

My friend Jim called the other day 1.
 He said, "Would you like to see a play _____ 2?"
 I didn't really want to _____ 3, so this is how I told him _____ 4.
 I'm afraid I won't be able _____ 5. I have a lot of things to _____ 6.
 I've got to wash my clothes and clean my house today.
 But thank you for the invitation. I want to express my appreciation.
 I'm sure that we'll be able to see a _____ 7 another _____ 8.



My friend Bob called the other _____ 9.
 He said, "Would you like to roller-skate _____ 10?"
 I didn't really want to _____ 11, so this is how I told him _____ 12.
 I'm afraid I won't be able _____ 13. I have a lot of things to _____ 14.
 I've got to paint my house and bathe my cat today.
 But thank you for the invitation. I want to express my appreciation.
 I'm sure that we'll be able to roller-skate another day.
 I'm sure that we'll be able to.
 I'm sure that we'll be able to.