



Let's learn more!

Date:

Marks:

7

When I Was Small

Modal Verbs – can / could + Reflexive Pronouns



Grammar in Focus

We use 'can' to talk about abilities.

| | | |
|-----|------------|------------------|
| Tom | can | cook by himself. |
|-----|------------|------------------|

We use 'could' to talk about past abilities.

| | | | |
|------|--------------|-----|------------------------|
| What | could | you | do when you were four? |
|------|--------------|-----|------------------------|

| | | | | |
|---|--------------|------|------|-------------|
| I | could | swim | when | I was four. |
|---|--------------|------|------|-------------|

We use 'by + reflexive pronoun' to show that someone does something without getting help from anyone else.

| |
|-----------------------|
| I → myself |
| you → yourself |

| |
|----------------------|
| he → himself |
| she → herself |
| it → itself |

| |
|----------------------------------|
| you (plural) → yourselves |
| we → ourselves |
| they → themselves |



✓ Sally **could** draw.

✗ Sally **could** draws.

- Philip could (**A** comb / **B** combs) his hair when he was three.
- Could Karen (**A** ride / **B** rides) a bicycle when she was ten?

A. William still remembers what he could do by himself when he was six. Look at the pictures and fill in the blanks with the correct letters.

William: When I was six, I **could**...

1.



2.



1. t a e a s w r

2. t e my s l a s

4.



3. t on my s k s

3.



4. c e the t b

B. William is telling Miss Word about his family and friends. Fill in the blanks using 'can', 'can't', 'could' and 'couldn't'.

e.g. My sister couldn't (not) pack her school bag when she was four.

1. My brother _____ speak English. He always talks to me in English.

2. My sister _____ tie her shoelaces when she was six.

3. My mum _____ do up her buttons when she was five.

4. My dad _____ (not) sing. We all go away when he sings.

5. Mum and Dad _____ cook. They make the dinner every night.

6. Patrick _____ (not) play the guitar when he was nine.

7. Alice _____ take a shower by herself when she was eight.

8. Peter _____ (not) go to school by himself when he was seven.

9. When _____ you walk when you were small?

10. What _____ Emily do when she was six?

11. Ann can draw. Tom can swim. What _____ you do?



C. Mr Strange and his friends are talking about what they could do in the past. Fill in the blanks with the correct reflexive pronouns.

1. Eric could do up his buttons by _____.
2. Ann could make lunch by _____.
3. They couldn't pack their own school bags by _____.
4. Mr Metal and I could go to school by _____.
5. Could you take a shower by _____ when you were five, Ivy?
6. May and Sam, could you draw by _____ when you were four?

D. William is asking Mr Metal some questions. Look at the pictures and complete their conversation using the given words and the correct reflexive pronouns.



clean the house

eat with forks

wash his hair

carry his school bag

e.g. What could Mr Strange do _____ when he was five _____?

He could _____ carry his school bag _____ by _____ himself _____.

1. What could Mr Strange and you do _____?

We could _____ by _____.

2. _____

3. _____

E. Miss Word is writing a poem. Complete the poem using 'could' or 'can' and the given words.

swim in the sea

make a doll

swim in a pool

drive

use the oven

eat with chopsticks



2 years old

When I was six,

I e.g. _____ could eat with chopsticks _____.

When I was seven,

① _____

What ② _____ you _____

when you were two?

When I was two,

I couldn't ③ _____

but ④ _____.

When ⑤ _____ you make a doll?

⑥ _____

when I was four.

Now I am twenty-five.

I am happy because I

⑦ _____ !



4 years old



6 years old



7 years old



25 years old

Be confident about what you do.