

# 7 Do Things Ourselves

Modal Verbs – can / could +  
Reflexive Pronouns

Date:

Grade:



## Grammar Explained

- a) We use the modal verbs **'can'** and **'cannot / can't'** to talk about things we are able and unable to do respectively.

The leopard **can** run very fast.

- b) We use the modal verbs **'could'** and **'could not / couldn't'** to talk about things we were able and unable to do in the past respectively.

Paul and Joe **could not / couldn't** ride a bicycle three years ago.

- c) We use **reflexive pronouns** to show that people do something without other people's help.

Subject pronouns	Reflexive pronouns	Subject pronouns	Reflexive pronouns
I	myself	they	themselves
you	yourself / yourselves	he	himself
we	ourselves	she	herself
		it	itself

I **could** get dressed by **myself** when I was five.

**A** Cody is looking at some photos of his relatives and friends. Circle the correct answers.



1. I **can / could** do the homework by **myself / yourself**.

2. My cousins **can / can't** read a storybook by **himself / themselves**.



3. Ryan **can / could** do the sums by **yourself / himself** when he was four.


4. Nancy **could / couldn't** make dinner by **herself / themselves** when she was six. She needed her mum's help.



**B** Cody is talking about his friends' abilities. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of 'can'.


1. Andy \_\_\_\_\_ swim when he was five. He was afraid of water.
2. Ben reads a lot of novels. He \_\_\_\_\_ tell wonderful stories.
3. Samuel \_\_\_\_\_ build a Lego house when he was five. He was smart.
4. Fred is from England. He \_\_\_\_\_ speak Cantonese but he \_\_\_\_\_ speak English fluently.
5. Mary \_\_\_\_\_ eat by herself when she was three. Her mum fed her.
6. Joyce and Joey \_\_\_\_\_ make salad when they were ten. Their mum was happy.

- C** Connie is giving a presentation about what she and her friends could do. Complete what she says with the correct reflexive pronouns.

Good afternoon, Miss Lam and my classmates. My friends and I could do a lot of things by  ① \_\_\_\_\_ when we were younger.

Judy could pack her schoolbag by ② \_\_\_\_\_ when she was four. Jackson could make a sandwich by ③ \_\_\_\_\_ when he was seven. At the age of nine, Alice and Claudia could cut their fingernails by ④ \_\_\_\_\_.



I could do up my buttons by ⑤ \_\_\_\_\_ when I was seven.

What about you? What could you do by  ⑥ \_\_\_\_\_ when you were younger?



## Proofreading

- D** Underline the mistakes and write the correct answers on the lines.

1. Little Ken can't button up his shirt when he was five. His sister helped him. 1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Sam can't play the piano well. He wants to be a pianist in the future.  2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. 'You should behave yourself!' Mr Ip said to us.  3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Two years ago, Kitty can remember my birthday. She was kind. 4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Leon and Louis can go to school by yourselves. 5. \_\_\_\_\_



# Daily Life Grammar

**E** Connie is writing some photo captions in her scrapbook. Complete the captions with the correct reflexive pronouns or the correct form of 'can', and the given words.

make dinner    comb my hair    pack his schoolbag    climb the stairs  
play football    tie my shoelaces    do up my buttons    speak English



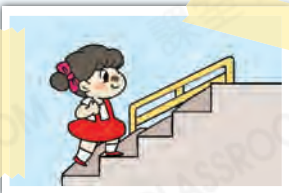
Mum and Dad **e.g.** \_\_\_\_\_ could speak English fluently when they were in university.

When they were young, they **1** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ by **2** \_\_\_\_\_.



Cody always loves sports. He **3** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ when he was three.

He **4** \_\_\_\_\_ by  
**5** \_\_\_\_\_ when he was in Primary one.



I **6** \_\_\_\_\_ by  
**7** \_\_\_\_\_ when I was four. I felt so proud!

I **8** \_\_\_\_\_  
when I was in kindergarten.



I **9** \_\_\_\_\_  
now. Mum taught me last year. But I still  
 **10** \_\_\_\_\_  
now. I need Dad to help me.

