

## Unit 26

**1** In this exercise you have to use **can or be able to**. Sometimes it is possible to use either; sometimes only **be able to** is possible.

*Examples:* George has travelled a lot. He can (or is able to) speak four languages.  
I haven't been able to sleep very well recently.

- 1 Tom ..... drive but he hasn't got a car.
- 2 I can't understand Martin. I've never ..... understand him.
- 3 I used to ..... stand on my head but I can't do it now.
- 4 Ask Ann about your problem. She should ..... help you.

- 1 He can't play tennis very well now but he ..... quite well when he was younger.
- 2 She can't run very fast now but when she was at school she ..... faster than anyone else.
- 3 I can't swim very far these days but ten years ago I ..... from one side of the lake to the other.

**3** This time you have to answer the questions with **was/were able to**.

*Example:* Did you persuade them?

Yes. It was difficult but we were able to persuade them.

- 1 Did they find your house?  
Yes. It took them a long time but they .....
- 2 Did you win the match?  
Yes. It wasn't easy but I .....
- 3 Did the thief escape?  
Yes. The policeman chased the thief but he .....

**4** Now you have to complete a sentence with **could, was/were able to or**

*Examples:* My grandfather was very clever. He could (or was able to) speak five languages.

I looked everywhere for the book but I couldn't find it.

The fire spread quickly but everyone was able to escape.

- 1 He had hurt his leg, so he ..... walk very well.
- 2 She wasn't at home when I phoned but I ..... contact her at her office.
- 3 I looked very carefully and I ..... see a figure in the distance.
- 4 They didn't have any tomatoes in the first shop I went to, but I ..... get some in the next shop.
- 5 My grandmother loved music. She ..... play the piano very well.
- 6 The boy fell into the river but fortunately we ..... rescue him.

**3** This time you have to answer the questions with **was/were able to**.

*Example:* Did you persuade them?