

1 Choose the correct answer: a, b or c.

- 1 When I was a boy I play the piano well.
But I can't play so well these days because I
don't practise very often.
a managed to b could c couldn't
- 2 Did you to finish your work?
a could b able c manage to
- 3 you speak Spanish before you went to
live in Spain?
a Could b Able c Managed to
- 4 I was so tired that I stay up.
a couldn't b could c was able
- 5 Although I injured my foot at the start, I
..... able to finish the race.
a managed b was c could
- 6 I tried to learn Mandarin Chinese, but I didn't
..... make much progress with the language.
a wasn't able b couldn't c manage to

2 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1 I wasn't able | d |
| 2 He may not be a natural in the kitchen | |
| 3 I couldn't understand | |
| 4 She could sing like an angel, | |
| 5 We tried our best | |
| 6 I've never been able | |
| a but we didn't manage to win. | |
| b a single word she said. | |
| c to play the guitar very well. I should have
lessons, I suppose. | |
| d to work as well with a laptop, I'm afraid. | |
| e but he managed to make a beautiful
chocolate cake the other day. | |
| f couldn't she? | |

3 Rewrite the sentences using the words in brackets.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 He wasn't able to play basketball for a long
time after he broke his leg. (couldn't)
.....
.....
..... | 4 Mick wasn't able to speak Italian fluently
despite having spent three years living in
Rome. (couldn't)
.....
.....
..... |
| 2 They couldn't understand why I wanted to
work for the company. (weren't able to)
.....
.....
..... | 5 Were you able to do your homework without
any difficulty? (manage to)
.....
.....
..... |
| 3 Her boss wasn't very pleased with her
because she wasn't able to finish her work on
time. (didn't manage to)
.....
.....
..... | 6 I couldn't perform in the concert because I
wasn't feeling very well. (wasn't able to)
.....
.....
..... |