

COULD

Making affirmative statements with *could*

Take a look at this dialogue based on the lesson.



Here are more examples with **could**.

Carlos **could** swim pretty fast last year, but this year he can swim even faster.

Last semester Betty **could** hang out at the mall after school, but this semester she has volleyball practice after school.

Now take a look at this table with **could**. Note that **could** is a special verb. We don't add an -s to **could** with *he*, *she*, and *it*.

I	could run very fast last year.
You	
He	
She	
It	
We	
You	
They	



REMEMBER THIS:

We use **could** with all persons—we don't add an -s to **could** with *he*, *she*, and *it*.

The verb that comes after **could** does not take *to*.

Making negative statements with *could*

Compare these statements with **could**.

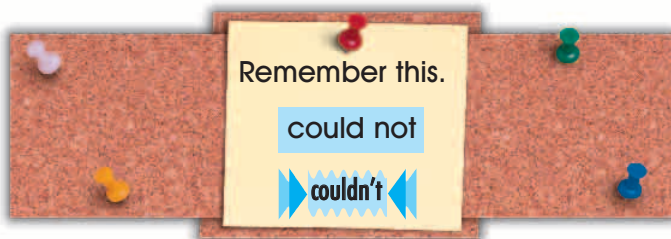
Ben **could** date when he was 14. —————▶ AFFIRMATIVE

Ben **could not** date when he was 14. —————▶ NEGATIVE

Now compare these negative sentences.

Ben **could not** date when he was 14. —————▶ NEGATIVE

Ben **couldn't** date when he was 14. —————▶ NEGATIVE



Take a look at this table.

I	could not	run for very long without a rest last year.
You		
He	couldn't	
She		
It		
We		
You		
They		



REMEMBER THIS:

In negative statements, we use **could not** or **couldn't**.

Asking questions with *could*

Compare these sentences.

Dad **could** row very fast when he was younger. → AFFIRMATIVE

Could Dad row very fast when he was younger? → INTERROGATIVE

Look at this table.

Could	I	sleep all day last year?
	you	
	he	
	she	
	it	
	we	
you		
they		

Take a look at these dialogues. Note the short answers.

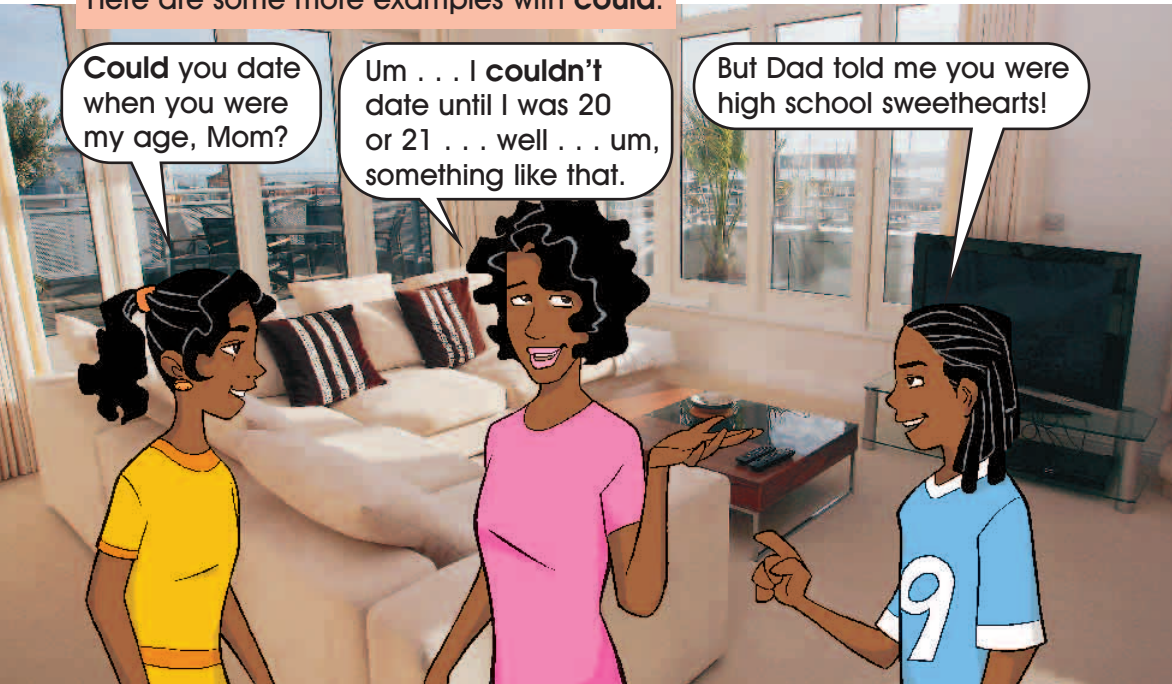
“Could Leon join the triathlon team last year?”

- “Yes, he **could**.”
- “No, he **couldn’t**.”

“Could you two ride a motorcycle when you were 16?”

- “Yes, we **could**.”
- “No, we **couldn’t**.”

Here are some more examples with could.



Could you date when you were my age, Mom?

Um . . . I couldn't date until I was 20 or 21 . . . well . . . um, something like that.

But Dad told me you were high school sweethearts!

When I was a teenager, I was an excellent athlete. I **could** row, run, swim, and ride a bike faster than all of my friends.

Oh, Grandpa, I can do all that stuff too—and more!

