

Exercices could ou was able to

Exercices d'anglais - niveau Terminale

Ces exercices could ou was able to vous apprennent à distinguer une aptitude passée d'une réussite précise, puis à manier managed to, succeeded in et be able to à tous les temps. Lisez bien le contexte de chaque phrase : c'est lui qui décide.

Cette fiche d'exercices est à **télécharger en PDF et à imprimer gratuitement** : le bouton se trouve en bas de la page, sans inscription.

Les exercices

Onze exercices could ou was able to, du repérage à la production

Exercice 1 : Aptitude ou réussite ?

Indiquez si chaque phrase exprime une aptitude générale (A) ou une réussite ponctuelle (R).

1. When she was five, she could read fluently.
2. After hours of climbing, they were able to reach the summit.
3. My grandfather could speak Welsh.
4. Despite the storm, the pilot managed to land safely.
5. I could run very fast when I was younger.
6. We were able to get tickets for the final in the end.

Exercices could ou was able to : partie 2

Exercice 2 : Could ou was / were able to

Complétez avec could ou was / were able to. Quand les deux sont possibles, choisissez la forme la plus naturelle.

1. When I lived in Spain, I ___ speak Spanish quite well.
2. The fire spread quickly, but everyone ___ escape.
3. Mozart ___ play the harpsichord at the age of four.
4. The exam was hard, but I ___ finish it in time.
5. Thanks to the map, we ___ find the cottage before dark.
6. As a teenager, my mother ___ dance all night.

Exercice 3 : Reformuler avec managed to

Réécrivez chaque phrase avec managed to, au temps qui convient.

1. In the end, she succeeded in convincing her parents.
2. They were able to save the injured whale.
3. Did you succeed in getting a refund?
4. The firefighters were able to put out the fire after six hours.
5. He didn't succeed in finishing the marathon.

Exercices could ou was able to : partie 3

Exercice 4 : La forme négative

Mettez chaque phrase à la forme négative en gardant le même verbe de capacité.

1. I could hear the speaker.
2. She was able to open the jar.
3. They managed to find a hotel.
4. We could understand his accent.
5. He was able to answer the last question.

Exercice 5 : Could avec les verbes de perception

Complétez avec could ou couldn't suivi d'un verbe de la liste : see, smell, understand, feel, hear, remember.

1. From the top of Ben Nevis, we ___ the Atlantic.
2. I ___ smoke, so I called the fire brigade.
3. She spoke so fast that I ___ a word.
4. In the dark, he ___ something brushing against his leg.
5. We ___ the crowd cheering from our hotel room.
6. I ___ her name, so I just smiled politely.

Exercices could ou was able to : partie 4

Exercice 6 : Be able to à tous les temps

Conjuguez be able to à la forme qui convient.

1. Next year I (be able to / vote) ___.
2. I (not / be able to / sleep) ___ since the heatwave started.
3. I'd love (be able to / play) ___ the guitar.
4. (be able to / speak) ___ several languages is a real asset.
5. You might (be able to / get) ___ a discount if you ask.

6. She used to (be able to / run) ___ ten miles without stopping.

Exercices could ou was able to : partie 5

Exercice 7 : Texte, l'ascension du Ben Nevis

Lisez le texte. Pour les questions 1 à 5, répondez par vrai ou faux et justifiez avec une citation. Répondez en français à la question 6.

In March, Liam set off to climb Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the United Kingdom. As a teenager he could climb almost anything, but he had not been on a mountain for years. The weather was terrible: he couldn't see more than ten metres ahead, and twice he wanted to turn back. Finally, after seven hours, he managed to reach the summit. He was so tired that he wasn't able to take a single photograph, but he could hear the wind roaring over the cliffs, and he felt proud. Back at the hostel, he was able to call his sister and tell her the news.

1. Liam had never been a good climber.
2. Visibility was good during the ascent.
3. Liam reached the summit.
4. He took many photos at the top.
5. He heard the wind at the summit.
6. Pourquoi l'auteur écrit-il managed to reach et non could reach ?

Exercices could ou was able to : partie 6

Exercice 8 : Capacité ou permission ?

Dites si could exprime une capacité ou une permission, puis remplacez-le par was / were able to ou was / were allowed to.

1. At my old school, we could wear jeans on Fridays.
2. Grandma could knit a jumper in two days.
3. In the 1950s, women in Switzerland couldn't vote in federal elections.
4. My brother could swim before he could walk.
5. Visitors could take photos inside the museum.
6. Ten years ago, I couldn't read Japanese.

Exercice 9 : Correction d'erreurs

Chaque phrase contient une erreur. Corrigez-la.

1. After three attempts, I could pass my driving test.
2. She succeeded to win the race.

3. I will can help you tomorrow.
4. He could to swim when he was four.
5. They managed finding the keys under the sofa.
6. Yesterday, at last, I could open the door with the old key.

Exercices could ou was able to : partie 7

Exercice 10 : Traduction du français vers l'anglais

Traduisez en choisissant soigneusement la forme de capacité.

1. Quand elle était petite, elle savait nager.
2. Malgré la grève, nous avons pu prendre le dernier train.
3. Il n'a pas pu venir à la réunion.
4. Je n'arrive pas à dormir depuis lundi.
5. Ils ont réussi à convaincre le jury.
6. On entendait la mer depuis la chambre.

Exercice 11 : Production guidée

Racontez un défi que vous avez relevé. Écrivez une phrase pour chaque consigne.

1. Une aptitude que vous aviez enfant (could).
2. Une chose que vous ne saviez pas faire (couldn't).
3. Une réussite obtenue après un effort (managed to).
4. Une réussite ponctuelle neutre (was able to).
5. Une capacité que vous aurez plus tard (will be able to).

Exercices could ou was able to : partie 8

Exercice 12 : could have + participe passé

Complétez chaque phrase avec **could have** ou **couldn't have** et le participe passé du verbe entre parenthèses.

1. He was fast enough to win, but he fell. He ___ (win) the race.
2. She was able to call us, but she forgot. She ___ (call) us.
3. It was possible to take the earlier train. We ___ (take) the earlier train.
4. He wasn't there at the time. He ___ (see) the sign.
5. She was abroad that week. She ___ (be) at the party.
6. You were able to ask for help. You ___ (ask) for help.

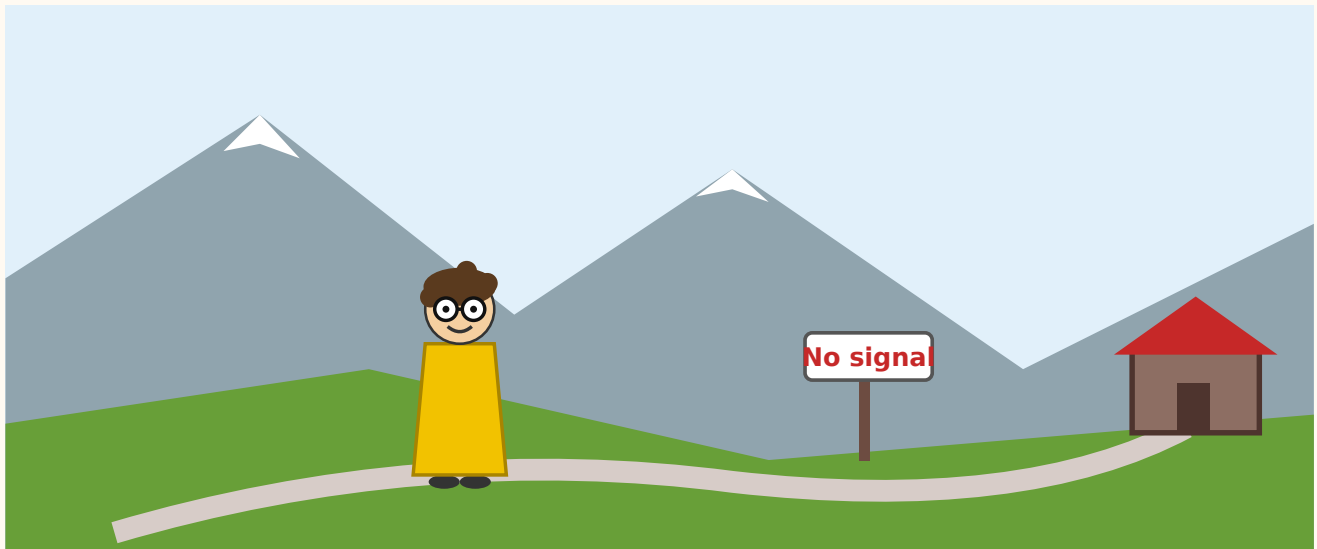
Exercice 13 : too ou enough

Réécrivez chaque phrase avec **too** ou **enough**, sans changer le sens.

1. The suitcase was so heavy that I couldn't carry it. (The suitcase was too...)
2. She was so tired that she couldn't concentrate. (She was too...)
3. The room was so small that we couldn't hold the meeting there. (The room was too...)
4. He was so strong that he could lift the piano. (He was strong...)
5. The coffee was so hot that she couldn't drink it. (The coffee was too...)
6. The students were so clever that they could solve the problem. (The students were clever...)

Exercice 14 : compréhension : une randonnée difficile

Observez l'image, lisez le texte, puis répondez en anglais.



Le sentier vers le refuge

Last winter, a group of hikers got lost in the Scottish Highlands. They couldn't use their phones because there was no signal. Luckily, one of them could read a map, so they were able to find a path down. After three hours, they were able to reach a small hut, where they were able to rest. The next morning, the rescue team was able to find them, and everyone was able to go home safely.

1. Why couldn't the hikers use their phones?
2. Which skill did one hiker have?
3. What did this allow the group to do?
4. Where did they arrive after three hours?
5. Who found them the next morning?
6. Which sentence expresses a general ability and not a one-off success?

Exercice 15 : associer les débuts et les fins

Associez chaque début de phrase (1 à 6) à sa fin (a à f).

1. Although she had a broken leg, she was able

2. As a child, my uncle could
3. We queued for hours, but we weren't able
4. The old computer couldn't
5. Thanks to the map, the explorers were able
6. In the middle of the concert, I couldn't

a. to find the village before nightfall. - b. to finish the race. - c. run the new software. - d. hear a word because of the noise. - e. play the piano by ear. - f. to get tickets.

Exercice 16 : succeed in + -ing

Réécrivez chaque phrase avec **succeed in** suivi d'un verbe en -ing, sans changer le sens.

1. They were able to repair the engine.
2. She managed to persuade the board.
3. We were able to book a table.
4. He managed to win.
5. The team was able to break the record.
6. I was able to convince her.

Exercice 17 : could, would be able to et hypothèse

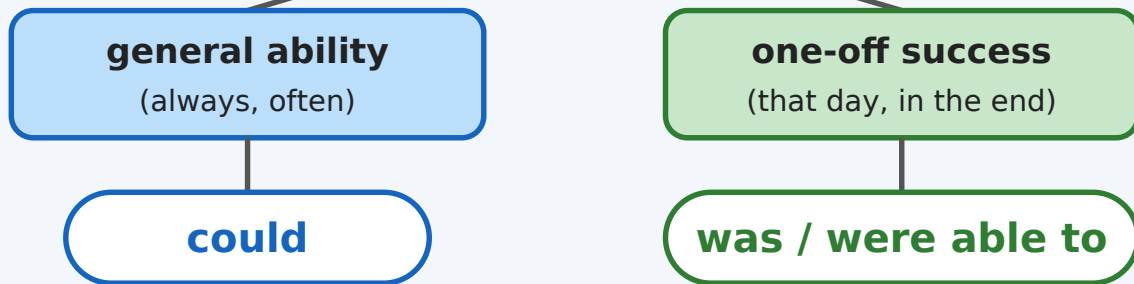
Complétez chaque phrase avec la forme qui convient : **could**, **were able to** ou **would be able to**.

1. If I ___ speak Japanese, I would work in Tokyo.
2. If they ___ afford a bigger flat, they would move.
3. You ___ understand the film better if you read the book.
4. If she ___ find a babysitter, she would come to the party.
5. We ___ finish on time if we started now.
6. If he ___ drive, he wouldn't need to take the bus.

Exercice 18 : passer au passé

Observez le schéma, puis mettez chaque phrase au passé en choisissant **could**, **couldn't** ou **was / were able to**.

In the past ...



negative: couldn't = wasn't able to

Could ou was able to ?

1. Nobody can find the key, but Sam is able to find it.
2. I can't swim well, but in the end I'm able to cross the river.
3. She can play three instruments, and tonight she is able to impress the jury.
4. We can't see the stage, but we are able to hear the band.
5. He can run fast, and today he is able to win the race.
6. They can't understand the instructions; finally a technician is able to explain them.

Exercice 19 : un message à un ami

Complétez le message avec **could, couldn't, was able to, were able to** ou **weren't able to**.

Dear Sam, I'm writing to tell you about our trip. On Monday, we (1) ___ reach the hotel before midnight because our train was cancelled. Luckily, a taxi driver (2) ___ take us there. When I was young, I (3) ___ sleep anywhere, but this time I (4) ___ sleep a wink. On Tuesday, we (5) ___ visit the old town. In the evening, my brother (6) ___ repair my broken phone, so I was able to call you at last!

Exercice 20 : un obstacle surmonté

Racontez en 8 à 10 lignes une difficulté que vous avez surmontée (un voyage, un examen, un projet). Utilisez au moins quatre fois *could, couldn't, was / were able to* ou *managed to*.

1. Présentez la situation.
2. Expliquez ce que vous ne pouviez pas faire.
3. Dites comment vous y êtes arrivé(e).
4. Terminez par ce que vous avez appris.