

- a Circle the correct verbs. Tick (✓) if both are possible.

Tango dancing

I decided to try to learn tango about six months ago. I've never ¹**been able to** / **could** dance well, though both my parents are good dancers. I thought: well, if they ²**could** / **were able to** do it, I should ³**can** / **be able to** learn, too. But the tango's not an easy dance to learn, because the steps aren't fixed, and every eight steps the man has to decide what move he's going to make, and he has to ⁴**can** / **be able to** transmit that to his partner. My first partner and I ⁵**weren't able to** / **couldn't** understand each other at all, so she changed partner. I think my new partner understands me better, so I hope we ⁶**will can** / **will be able to** dance well soon.



Irish

As my family's Irish, I thought I should learn to speak the language. I found a school and started going to classes, but the first problem was that I ⁷**couldn't** / **wasn't able to** go to class every week, and the second was that it's a very difficult language. Also I ⁸**wasn't able to** / **couldn't** find the time to do much homework, and trying to learn a language without ⁹**can** / **being able to** study between classes is almost impossible. If ¹⁰**I can** / **I'm able to** find time to go to Ireland in the summer, I'll definitely try again.



- b Complete the sentences where possible with *can / can't* or *could / couldn't*.
If neither is possible, complete with a form of *be able to*.

- I started reading *War and Peace*, but I couldn't finish it. It was too long.
- I've invited Mark to the party, but I don't think he'll _____ come.
- You _____ park there. There's not enough room.
- I want to buy a new car next year, but I haven't _____ save much money yet.
- He _____ play the piano when he was only four years old.
- If that car was a bit cheaper, I'd _____ buy it.
- I like _____ do what I want when I'm on holiday.
- We don't have to buy the tickets now – we _____ get them on the train.
- I didn't enjoy the film because I _____ understand what was going on.
- Excuse me, do you think you _____ help me with my cases?
- We won't _____ meet tonight, I'm working.