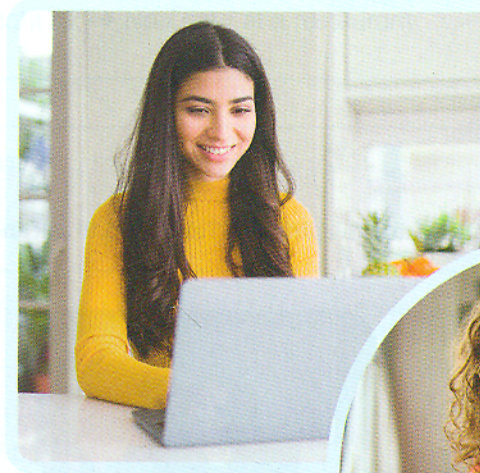


Look at the picture and read the dialogue.

- Zoe** Anna, please help me find a birthday present for Ted. Does he like board games?
- Anna** Well, he **used to** like them a lot, but he doesn't play very often now. He prefers skateboarding.
- Zoe** **Could** Ted skateboard when he was younger? I didn't know that.
- Anna** Actually, he **couldn't**. He learnt last summer, and now he loves it!
- Zoe** Does he like reading? I know he **didn't use to** read books.
- Anna** Not really. What about wireless headphones? He always enjoys listening to music.
- Zoe** Great idea!



Now, answer the questions.

1. What did Ted use to like in the past? _____
2. Could Ted skateboard three years ago? _____
3. What does Zoe decide to buy for Ted? _____

Grammar

a The verb *could*

Affirmative		Negative	
I/He/She/It	could walk	I/He/She/It	couldn't (= could not) walk
We/You/They		We/You/They	
Questions		Short Answers	
Could	I/he/she/it walk?	Yes, I/he/she/it could.	No, I/he/she/it couldn't.
	we/you/they	we/you/they	we/you/they

- **Could** is the past tense of **can**. We use it to express ability in the past.
My sister could play the piano when she was seven.

b The verb *used to*

Affirmative	Negative	Questions
I/He/She/It used to play	I/He/She/It didn't use to play	I/he/she/it use to play?
We/You/They	We/You/They	Did we/you/they

- The verb **used to** is followed by the base form of a verb. It describes actions that happened often or regularly in the past, but they no longer happen. We form the interrogative and negative with **did / didn't**.

We used to go skateboarding every afternoon when we were young. (= We don't go now.)

Activities

A. Complete with *could* or *couldn't*.

- When Brad was younger, he _____ work all day and not get tired. Now he can't wait to get home after work and relax.
- Yesterday morning, Janet wanted to go shopping, but she _____ find her car keys.
- A:** _____ you swim fast when you were young?
B: Yes, I _____.
- When my brother was twelve years old, he _____ skateboard very well, but now he can.

B. Circle the correct words.

- Where is my biology book? I **can't / couldn't** find it.
- My sister **can't / couldn't** speak French two years ago, but now she **can / could**.
- A: Can / Could** you run fast, Robert?
B: Yes, I **could / can** run fast now, but I **can't / couldn't** five years ago.
- We **couldn't / could** receive any emails yesterday because there was something wrong with the Internet.

C. Complete with *can*, *can't*, *could* or *couldn't*.

- Oliver is only 10 years old, but he _____ speak three languages. I _____ only speak English when I was 15 years old.
- A:** _____ you help me make a video call on my new tablet?
B: I _____ right now. I'm typing my essay.
- My sister _____ paint well two years ago. Now she _____ paint beautiful landscapes.
- Sophie _____ talk to you at the moment. She's making a video call.