# Unit 15 · Expressing Ability

HARDER PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Full marks 26

Write your answers on separate paper.

## 1 Then and now [6]

Sanskriti is ten years old now. This table shows how old she was when she learned to do each thing.

| What | Her age when she learned it |
|---|---|
| walk | 1 |
| tie her shoelaces | 5 |
| read Nepali stories | 6 |
| ride a bicycle | 8 |
| swim | 10 (this year) |
| whistle | not yet |

a. When Sanskriti was seven, what could she do, and what couldn't she do? Write two sentences with *could* and two with *couldn't*.
b. Copy and complete: *Last year she ..... swim, but now she ..... .*
c. Her brother Kapil says, "Sanskriti couldn't whistle." That is true, but it doesn't say everything. Write a better sentence about her whistling, with *can't*, and say why it is better.
d. Write one sentence about her and the bicycle that uses both *couldn't* and *can*.

## 2 What are can and could doing? [5]

1. Could you pass the salt, please?
2. My grandmother could dance well when she was young.
3. I can't believe it! We won!
4. When I was small, I couldn't reach the light switch.
5. Can you help me carry this box?
6. Our baby can walk now.
7. Could I sit next to you?

a. Sort the seven sentences into four groups:

A. able or not able to do something **now**
B. able or not able to do something **in the past**
C. asking someone for something, **now**
D. not about being able at all: it shows surprise

b. Arman says, "*Could* is always the past of *can*." Use two of the sentences to show him he is wrong.
c. Sentence 1 could also begin *Can you ...?* What would change?

## 3 Answers that fit the question [6]

A school magazine talked to Chiring, a wheelchair basketball player. (He is made up.) Some of his short answers are wrong.

**Q:** Can you play every day?
**Chiring:** Yes, I do.
**Q:** Could you play when you were six?
**Chiring:** No, I can't.
**Q:** Do you practice in the mornings?

**Chiring:** Yes, I can.
**Q:** Did your team win last week?
**Chiring:** Yes, we did.
**Q:** Can your wheelchair turn quickly?
**Chiring:** Yes, it can.

a. Find the three wrong answers and correct them.
b. Write a rule: how do you choose the word in a short answer?
c. Write two more questions the magazine could ask Chiring, one with *Can* and one with *Could … when …?*, and an answer to each.

## 4 A fair contest [5]

Read "The Paralympic Games" on pages 170 and 171 of your textbook again.

a. In the Paralympics, a runner who is blind doesn't race against runners who can see. Why would that race not be fair? What does the text say happens instead?
b. Wheelchairs and artificial limbs are used in many events, but the text says they are not allowed in swimming and sitting volleyball. Why do you think they are kept out there? Give one idea for each sport.
c. The name *Paralympics* means "alongside the Olympics". Find **two** facts in the text that fit this name.

## 5 A phone that can do everything [4]

Read "My Phone" on pages 174 and 175 of your textbook again. Its last verse turns the list round: the phone can do so much that its owner has forgotten what a phone was first made for.

Write four lines of your own in the same way about another thing: a pen, a bicycle, a school bus… Say what it can do (at least twice with *can*), what it can't do (once with *can't*), and end with the same kind of surprise.