Unit 13 · Ability and Reasons

HARDER PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Full marks 25

Write your answers on separate paper.

1 Three jobs for could [6]

1. When I was six, I could swim across the river.
2. Could you carry this bag for me, please?
3. Take a jacket. It could get cold tonight.
4. Could you read when you started school?
5. The phone is ringing. It could be Dad.

a. For each sentence, say which job *could* is doing: **ability in the past**, a **polite request**, or a **guess** about now or later. Which words in the sentence tell you?

b. Write a short answer that fits sentence 2, and one that fits sentence 4.

c. Write sentence 1 again so that it is about **now**, and sentence 5 so that it is a **sure** fact, not a guess.

d. Correct this sentence, and say why each change is needed: *When I was five, I can't read, but now I could read anything.*

2 No time word [3]

Kiran says only: *I could swim across the river.* There is no time word, so you can't tell yet which job *could* is doing.

a. Write a sentence to go with it so that it is about **ability in the past**, and another so that it says something is **possible now**.

b. However Kiran goes on, his sentence can never be a **polite request**. Why not?

3 A reason that fits [6]

Four of these sentences have a mistake, and one is right.

1. Dipesh can't help you with your homework because he is very good at math.
2. The road was closed because of a landslide fell on it.
3. It rained all night because the river rose.
4. Since it was a holiday, so the school was closed.
5. We stayed indoors because of the rain which fell all day.

a. Which sentence is right? Why might someone think it is wrong?

b. Correct the other four. For each, say in a few words what was wrong.

4 Telling a story in the present [6]

A student is describing a story she read. (The story is made up.) Copy the description, with the verbs in brackets in the right form. Most go in the present simple, but not all.

The story (1. tell) about an old woman in a hill village and her mango tree. She (2. plant) the tree fifty years ago, when she was a young bride. Every summer, the children of the village (3. come) to her yard, and the noise of their games (4. fill) the house. One day a storm (5. break) the biggest branch. The children (6. be) sad, but the old woman only (7. smile). She (8. show) them the seeds she (9. keep) from last summer's mangoes, and together they (10. plant) them.

a. Write the ten verbs.

b. Which verbs stay in the past? Why are they different from the others?

c. In gap 4, the word just before the gap is *games*. How did you decide the form of the verb?

5 What was going on? [4]

a. Sana wrote these notes about a lucky escape. Use them to write three sentences with *when*. In each, use the past continuous for what was going on and the past simple for what happened suddenly.

- going on: Sana and her brother walking home under the old peepal tree · sudden: a strong wind started
- going on: they running to the bus shelter · sudden: a big branch cracked
- going on: they standing safely in the shelter · sudden: the branch crashed onto the path

b. In Sana's story, why is it *the branch crashed onto the path* and not *the branch was crashing onto the path*?