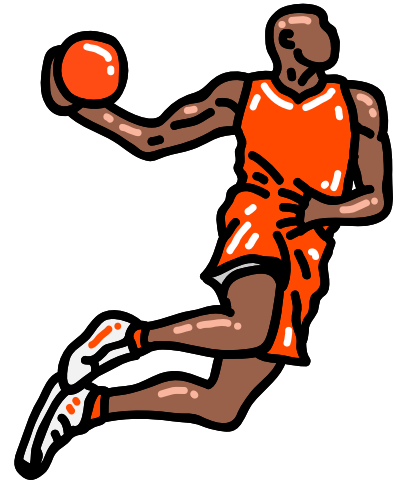




BASKETBALL

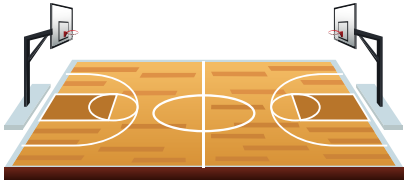
Discuss

- Do you play basketball?
- What do you need to play basketball?
- Have you heard about the NBA?
- What makes a good basketball player?



Vocabulary

Match the words with the pictures.

Basketball Court Sneakers Hoop Professional Exercise		
 _____	 _____	 _____
 _____	 _____	 _____

Comprehension

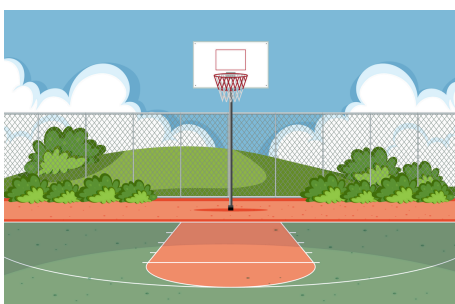
Jenny and Her Basketball

On Sunday mornings, Jenny always played basketball with her dad on the court near where they lived. This was her favourite activity because she got to exercise and hang out with her dad. Jenny was six years old and not very tall, but even though the rim of the basketball hoop was high for her, she practiced her shooting as much as she could. Whenever she got the ball in the net, she was so happy!



Jenny's dad was so good at playing basketball that she thought he could be a professional. He could dribble, shoot from far away, and even dunk! Whenever he dunked, she couldn't help but drop her jaw.

Jenny asked her dad why the people she saw playing basketball on the TV were always men. 'Why are there no women playing, Dad?' she asked him.



Comprehension

Her dad smiled at her and said, 'Women play basketball too, but they play against other women. The men play in the NBA, while the women play in the WNBA. This is to make sure that everyone has a chance, since men usually have bigger muscles than women. This doesn't mean men are better at playing than women—many women are just as good, if not better, at shooting and dribbling than men!'

Hearing this made Jenny hopeful. She had always believed she couldn't become a basketball player because she was a girl, but since that talk with her dad, her dream was to play in the WNBA when she grew up. She and her dad both believed she could do it. For her next birthday, her dad gave her a new pair of basketball sneakers.



Questions

Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. Why did Jenny like playing basketball on Sunday mornings?

2. What three things was Jenny's dad good at doing with a basketball?

3. Which league do the women play in (hint: the men play in the NBA)?

4. Are men better at playing basketball than women?

5. What is Jenny's dream after speaking to her dad?

6. What did Jenny's dad give her for her next birthday?

7. Draw Jenny playing basketball with her dad.



Grammar I—Modals of Ability (Past)

General Ability

Modals of ability in the past are used to talk about what someone **could** or **could not** do. The most common modal verb for expressing ability in the past is **could**, which we use to say that someone or something was *able to do something*. Its negative form is **could not** (or **couldn't**).

To make sentences using this modal verb in the past tense, we take the *subject + could/couldn't + verb*. Modal verbs of ability are often not used for questions in the past tense, since we already know whether or not the subject had the ability to actually do the verb.

Key points:

1. **Could** is used to express ability or possibility in the past.
 - I **could** speak English when I was 6.
 - She **could** run fast when she was younger.
2. **Could not** (or **couldn't**) is used to express the inability to do something in the past.
 - He **couldn't** swim when he was little.
 - They **couldn't** solve the problem yesterday.
3. **Could** is always followed by the base form of the verb (without to).
 - We **could** play soccer. (NOT: We could to play soccer.)
4. **Could** is the same for all subjects (I, you, he, she, it, we, they).
 - I **could** sing.
 - They **could** dance.
5. **Could** is sometimes used to ask for permission or make requests, but in this worksheet, we focus on its use for **ability in the past**.
 - **Could** you help me? (Request.)
 - **Could** I go to the bathroom? (Permission.)



Ability on One Occasion

We use **was able to** and **wasn't able to** to talk about something someone did (or didn't do) one time in the past.

- Successful: Jenny was able to score a point in her first game! (She did it one time.)
- Unsuccessful: She wasn't able to catch the ball yesterday. (She didn't do it one time.)

Practice I



Directions: Circle the correct answer for **could** or **couldn't**.

1. Jenny **could/couldn't** shoot the ball into the hoop when she was six.
2. Her dad **could/couldn't** dunk the ball because he was very tall.
3. The basketball team **could/couldn't** win the game last week because they practiced hard.
4. Jenny **could/couldn't** find her sneakers before practice yesterday because they were under her bed.
5. The players **could/couldn't** hear the coach because the gym was too noisy.
6. Jenny's friend **could/couldn't** come to the game because she had a fever.
7. The referee **could/couldn't** see the foul because it happened too quickly.
8. Jenny **could/couldn't** dribble the ball very well when she first started playing.
9. The team **could/couldn't** practice outside because it was raining heavily.
10. Jenny's dad **could/couldn't** teach her how to shoot from far away because he was a great player.

Directions: Write sentences using **was able to** or **wasn't able to**.

1. (Jenny / score a point / in her game last week)

2. (She / find her basketball / yesterday)

3. (The team / win the championship / last year)

4. (Jenny / attend practice / last Saturday)

Practice II

Directions: Read the sentences below. Sort them into two groups: What Jenny **COULD** do and What Jenny **COULDN'T** do. Put ticks on the correct boxes.

Questions	Could	Couldn't
1. Shoot the ball into the hoop when she practiced.		
2. Dunk the ball because she wasn't tall enough.		
3. Dribble the ball with her dad every Sunday.		
4. Play in the NBA when she was six years old.		
5. Find her sneakers before her birthday.		
6. Dream about playing in the WNBA.		

Directions: Complete the passage using **could**, **couldn't**, **was able to**, or **wasn't able to**.

Jenny's First Basketball Game

When Jenny was six years old, she _____ play basketball very well. She _____ dribble the ball smoothly, and she _____ shoot the ball into the hoop every time. But one day, during her first game, she _____ score a point in the first half! Her dad cheered for her, and in the second half, she _____ finally make a basket! After the game, she _____ stop smiling. She _____ believe she _____ do it!



Practice III

Directions: Think about Jenny's story. Write 3 things she could do and 3 things she couldn't do when she was younger.

Example:

COULD: Jenny could shoot the ball into the hoop.

COULDN'T: She couldn't dunk the ball because she wasn't tall enough.

COULD	COULDN'T
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____

Bonus: Draw a small basketball next to your favourite sentence!

