



Let's practise using "could" and "were able to"!

i "Could" and "was/were able to" are both used to talk about ability or what was possible in the past. For example:
He was able to take the bus yesterday.

Could is also used for polite requests and to ask permission. For example: Could you please close the door? OR
Could I open a window?

i Be careful: Use "was able to" for I and he/she/it but use "were able to" for you, we and they.

Questions: Put "was" or "were" or "could" at the beginning of the sentence followed by the person. For example: Were you able to win the prize?

Negations: Form them by using "wasn't/ was not" or "weren't/were not" or "couldn't/could not". For example: I wasn't able to come.

?
_____ you please ring Claudia?

- ☐ Were you able to
- ☐ Could

?
Sheila is very busy at work, but she _____ able to visit me last week.

- ☐ was
- ☐ could
- ☐ were

?
_____ I ring you later to talk about our homework?

- ☐ Could
- ☐ Have
- ☐ Was

?
They _____ able to understand her despite not speaking the same language.

- ☐ is
- ☐ were
- ☐ was

?
Sorry, but we _____ able to come to your meeting yesterday.

- ☐ weren't
- ☐ were
- ☐ wasn't



?

_____ they able to climb to the top of the mountain?

- ☐ Was
- ☐ Could
- ☐ Were

?

_____ you please let June know that I will be late?

- ☐ Was
- ☐ Could
- ☐ Were

?

I _____ believe my eyes when I saw it! Really amazing!

- ☐ couldn't
- ☐ couldn't
- ☐ could

?

_____ you able to finish the essay last week?

- ☐ Were
- ☐ Was
- ☐ Have

?

They were _____ talk about everything without being interrupted.

- ☐ don't able
- ☐ abl to
- ☐ able to

?

_____ I join you, please?

- ☐ Were
- ☐ Have
- ☐ Could

?

I _____ ask Lisa for help with this task.

- ☐ could
- ☐ coud