

# COULD AND COULDN'T



**When you want to express your ability in doing something, you say:**

**I can swim**



**I can read**



**I play can gulf**



When we talk about the things **we were able (éramos capaces)** to do in the past,

we use the form: **could or couldn't**

**PAST**

**PRESENT**

**I couldn't play bowling**

(éramos capaces)

**I can play bowling now**



# COULD AND COULDN'T



# Let's revise

## CAN - CANNOT



### USES OF CAN

### Simple Present Tense

#### 1. ability or possibility

- I can swim.

#### 2. permission

- You can use my pen.

#### CAN + VERB \* \*Base form of the infinitive

He can speak English. ✓

He can speaks English. ✗ No S

He can to speak English. ✗ No TO

### AFFIRMATIVE

### NEGATIVE

SINGULAR

I can speak English.  
 You can ride a bike.  
 He can drive a car.  
 She can play the guitar.  
 It can swim.

I can't speak French.  
 You can't ride a horse.  
 He can't drive a truck.  
 She can't play the piano.  
 It can't fly.

PLURAL

We can play football.  
 You can see the stars.  
 They can dance.

We can't play tennis.  
 You can't see germs.  
 They can't sing.

### QUESTIONS

+ Affirmative They can speak Spanish.

? Question Can they speak Spanish?

Short Answer Yes, they can. / No, they can't.

### CONTRACTION

can't = cannot

He can't sing.  
 = He cannot sing.

I

could

talk on the phone

send texts

He

send emails

She

send postcards

We

couldn't

write letters

use the internet