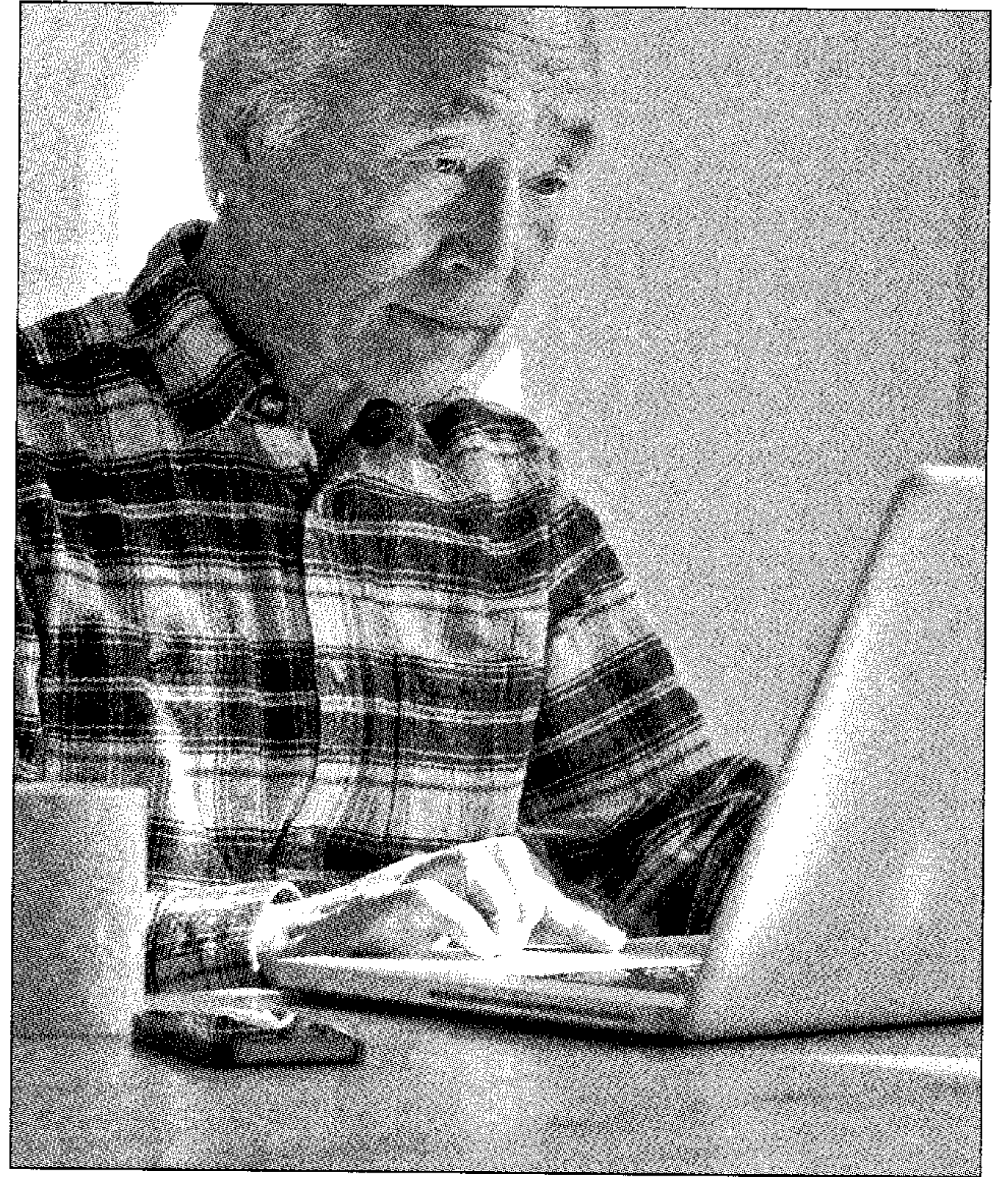


## 4B GRAMMAR ability and possibility: *can, could, be able to*

- a Circle the correct verb. Sometimes both verbs are possible.

### It's never too late

My 78-year-old father <sup>1</sup> **couldn't** / **wasn't able to** even turn on a computer until about two years ago. All that changed when he decided that he wanted to <sup>2</sup> **can** / **be able to** use the internet and he did a course at his local Adult Education Centre. Although he really enjoyed the course, he <sup>3</sup> **couldn't** / **wasn't able to** put what he learnt in his classes into practice because he didn't have a computer. So, for his birthday, I bought him his own laptop and that's when he really started learning! Now, he <sup>4</sup> **'s able to** / **can** use the internet really well and send emails. What he loves most is <sup>5</sup> **can** / **being able to** speak to and see his grandchildren on Skype at least once a week. We live in Australia, but he lives in the UK. If he didn't have a computer, he <sup>6</sup> **couldn't** / **wouldn't be able to** keep in touch with us so much.



- b Complete the sentences with *can / can't* or *could / couldn't*. If a form of *can / could* isn't possible, complete the sentence with a form of *be able to*.

- At the end of the six-week course, you 'll be able to design your own website.
- Masha called me yesterday because she \_\_\_\_\_ remember how to get to my house.
- Simon isn't going to \_\_\_\_\_ finish the report by the end of the day.
- Pierre has passed his driving test, so now he \_\_\_\_\_ drive his father's car.
- I haven't \_\_\_\_\_ speak to Harry for over three weeks. He never answers his phone.
- The train was delayed, so I \_\_\_\_\_ get to the meeting on time.
- Miriam hates not \_\_\_\_\_ play chess as well as Luke. He always beats her and she's a really bad loser!
- Sometimes when you're on Skype you \_\_\_\_\_ hear the other person very well.
- I'm afraid I won't \_\_\_\_\_ go away this weekend. I'm too busy.
- You should \_\_\_\_\_ do this exercise without any help. It's quite easy.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ park here; there are no spaces.
- \_\_\_\_\_ do what you like is the best thing about a holiday.

### ACTIVATION

Complete the sentences about yourself.

- I've been able to \_\_\_\_\_ since \_\_\_\_\_.
- I used to be able to \_\_\_\_\_.
- I enjoy being able to \_\_\_\_\_.