

Shopping then and now

Level : elementary

Subject : English

Aids : paper, pencil

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We use **can/can't/could/couldn't** to talk about ability and possibility in the past.

We use **can/can't/could/couldn't** with the *infinitive* form of the verb, without **to**.

→ Grammar Reference page 144

7a Work with a partner. Complete the questions in the Shopping Quiz with **can** or **could**.

## Shopping then and now

- Could** people buy things online in 1994? Yes
- In the 1990s, **could** rich people buy trips into space? No
- Can** you buy eggs from vending machines in Japan today? Yes
- Can** you buy a bottle of rainwater for \$11 these days? ?
- Can** you use euros in Norway and Sweden? No
- Could** people buy things from machines in 1890? *alcohol in Paris*, Yes
- In the 1960s, **could** you buy petrol at supermarkets? No
- Can** you buy clothes online from all the big fashion companies? Yes

■ **vending machines** machines from which you can buy snacks, drinks, etc.

b Answer questions 1–8 in the Shopping Quiz. Compare your answers with a partner.

C I think you can

b 5.4 ))) Listen again

9a Work in small groups. Answer the questions in exercise 5.4.

A *Could people buy...*  
B *Yes, (maybe) they could.*  
C *No, they couldn't.*

b 5.5 ))) Listen and check your answers. Which of the following are correct?

10 **TASK** Work with a partner. Discuss the list using **can/can't**.

A *Children could play outside.*  
B *Yes, they can!*

- children play outside
- book holidays online
- buy clothes in a shop
- buy things with a credit card
- children walk to school
- drink water from a tap
- drive in the town centre
- get cash from a bank
- get cash when you travel
- spend euros



