Memories

1 Complete sentences 1-10 using verbs to express ability.

1 I remember clearly that when I was five, I _________ ride my bike quite fast!
2 She hopes that she _________ dive by the end of the holiday.
3 I _________ around Portugal quite confidently after living there for a year.
4 He was delighted when at last he _________ to pass his driving test.
5 They had been trying to grow organic vegetables for ages, and they were delighted when they _________ in growing a whole crop of fruit and vegetables.
6 He _______ how _______ use a computer when he was six.
7 I never was very _________ cookery.
8 She really is quite _________ keeping in touch. She hardly ever writes or phones.
9 Do you think you _________ visit us later in the year?
10 Did she _________ to arrange the school reunion?

2 Read the following extract about someone’s early memories and answer questions 1-5.

School was good fun, but I always remember looking forward to the long summer holidays. I used to spend most of the time outside playing with my friends and going off to places on our bikes - making camps, eating ice creams and playing in the park. Yes, summer holidays were the best. Going to college was fantastic, especially as you had to work so hard to pass the exams to get there. I was studying subjects that I enjoyed and having the opportunity to do lots of different sports and activities. I get quite nostalgic when I remember those carefree days - meeting so many new people and having great fun at parties and social events...

1 What did the writer really look forward to every year?
2 How were most of the writer’s summer holidays spent?
3 Why did the writer feel pleased to have got in to a college?
4 Which word is used to describe the ‘chance’ to do lots of different sports?
5 How does the writer describe his days at college? What do you think this means?

3 In pairs discuss questions 1-3.

1 Do you remember the long summer holidays from school similarly to the writer? What did you use to do?
2 What happened after you left school? Did you go to college/university/into work? What kind of memories do you have of these early post school days?
3 Do you feel similarly to the writer that life before the world of work was relatively carefree?
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TEACHER’S NOTES:

Aim: to practise and consolidate ways of expressing ability as well as the can do statement; talk about memories. This worksheet is designed to be used in conjunction with unit 5.2.

Time: 40 minutes

Materials: photocopies of the worksheet for each student

1 Tell students to complete the sentences using words to express ability. Give students time to compare answers before eliciting them from the class.

Answers: 1 could 2 ‘ll be able to 3 was able to 4 managed to 5 succeeded 6 knew how to 7 good at 8 bad at 9 ‘ll be able to 10 manage

2 Get students to read the short extract and then answer the questions. Elicit answers from the class.

Answers: 1 the long summer holidays 2 outside having fun with his friends 3 because he had to work so hard to pass the exams to get there 4 opportunity 5 carefree – good fun without too much responsibility or worry about anything else

3 Ask students to discuss the questions with each other. Monitor to check if they need any help. Get feedback from the class.