



## Lesson 73

could	[kʊd]
baby	['berbi]
paint	[peɪnt]

The past of **can** is **could**.  
The contraction of **could not** is **couldn't**.

*I could speak English well when I was 9 years old.*

What's the past of 'can'?	The past of 'can' is 'could'.
What's the contraction of 'could not'?	The contraction of 'could not' is 'couldn't'.
Can you paint well?	Yes, I can <b>paint</b> well. or: No, I can't <b>paint</b> well.
Could you paint well when you were a baby?	No, I <b>couldn't paint</b> well when I was a <b>baby</b> .
What does 'could' mean in that sentence?	'Could' means '...' in that sentence.
Could you speak your language when you were <i>four</i> years old?	Yes, I <b>could</b> speak my language when I was <i>four</i> years old.
Could you speak <i>German</i> well after a course that lasts only <i>two months</i> ?	No, I <b>couldn't</b> speak <i>German</i> well after a course that lasts only <i>two months</i> .
What does 'could' mean in that sentence?	'Could' means '...' in that sentence.
Could you write a long article about your nation for a newspaper?	Yes, I <b>could</b> write a long article about my nation for a newspaper. or: No, I <b>couldn't</b> write a long article ...



Could you *paint well* when you were a baby?  
~ No, I *couldn't paint well* when I was a baby.