

1 Grammar in the Real World ●

A How do you stay in touch with friends and family? Read the web article. Does technology help you stay in touch?

TECHNOLOGY FOR MAKING CONNECTIONS

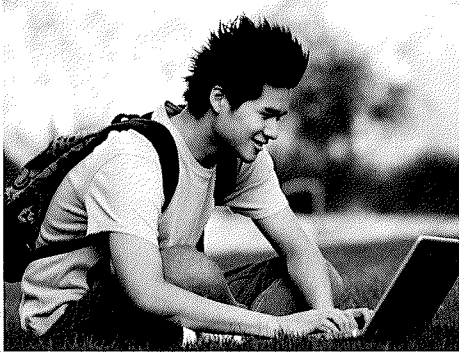
Technology helps us do many things that we **could not** do even a few years ago. Here is one way that technology changes our lives: It helps us keep in touch¹ – in touch with the world and with our friends and family.

For example, because of the Internet, we **are able to** get information about almost any topic at any time. The Internet **can** provide us with up-to-date news, music, movies, and even television shows.

The Internet also helps us connect with other people. We **can** share pictures, we **can** make our own websites and blogs, and we **can** communicate by e-mail and texting.²

One of the most popular ways we **are able to** connect with people is through social networking websites. On these websites, people **can** share their news and pictures. Then family and friends **can** post³ comments. They **can** also read each other's comments. In the past, we **could not** communicate on websites like these. They did not exist. Most people **could** only communicate by phone, letters, and e-mail. But now even children **know how to** use social networking sites to keep in touch with their friends.

Because of technology, we **can** get information and connect with others whenever we want. All of that is just a click away.



¹**keep in touch:** communicate with someone regularly | ²**text:** send a short message to someone's cell phone by pushing buttons for letters on your phone; short for *text messaging* | ³**post:** write a note or message or information on a website

B Comprehension Check Answer the questions. Use the article to help you.

1. What is a popular way the Internet helps us connect with people?
2. Name two things friends can share on social networking sites.
3. What can we do with technology that we couldn't do in the past?

C Notice Find these sentences in the article. Complete the sentences with *can*, *could*, or *could not*.

1. Technology helps us do many things that we _____ do even a few years ago.
2. On these websites, people _____ share their news and pictures.
3. They _____ also read each other's comments.
4. Most people _____ only communicate by phone, letters, and e-mail.

What form of the verb comes after *can*, *could*, or *could not*?

2 Can and Could for Ability and Possibility

► Grammar Presentation

Can and *could* express ability or possibility.

The Internet **can** provide us with music, movies, and even television shows.

Fifteen years ago, most people **could not** communicate by texting.

2.1 Statements

AFFIRMATIVE			
Subject	Can / Could	Base Form of Verb	
I	can could	use	e-mail.
You			
We			
They			
He/She/It			

NEGATIVE			
Subject	Can / Could + Not	Base Form of Verb	
I	cannot can't could not couldn't	use	e-mail.
You			
We			
They			
He/She/It			