

- 3 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Read the article and choose the correct words in *italics>. In two places, both answers are possible. 3.28 Listen and check.*

## How technology has changed our lives ...

Last week my wife suggested we should have a weekend break: Barcelona, or perhaps Prague. After a few minutes on my computer I (0) *was able to* / *could* book flights and a hotel, then print out airline tickets and a hotel voucher – all done in less than half an hour. Nothing surprising about that, you might say. But then I suddenly remembered how things were different when I was a child. If my parents wanted to go away they (1) *can't* / *couldn't* just use the Internet – because there was no Internet. Well, of course it existed, but ordinary people (2) *couldn't* / *weren't able to* use it, it was only used by a few universities and some government agencies. No, they had to phone a travel agent or drive into town and go to a travel agency.

It's the same thing with phones. I remember once, when I was a teenager, going out with some friends and missing the last bus home. Of course, none of us had a mobile phone. So we spent hours searching for a phone box so we (3) *could* / *can* call for a taxi. Eventually we (4) *could* / *managed to* find one, but by then it was 2 a.m. and we were freezing cold. In those days mobile phones were an expensive luxury. Even if you had one, you (5) *could only* / *were only able to* use it in big cities because there



was no signal in the countryside. And they were huge – not much smaller than a house brick. Now I have a phone that's no bigger than a box of matches. And I (6) *can* / *manage to* phone anyone, anywhere in the world, any time I feel like it. It can even (7) *using* / *be used to* look at the Internet. (8) *Do you can* / *Can you* imagine how exciting it was the first time an engineer managed (9) *to make* / *making* a phone small enough to put in your pocket? It must have been amazing. But I'm sure that in the future they (10) *can* / *will be able to* make them small enough to wear as a wristwatch!

- 4 Find eight more mistakes and correct them. Tick (✓) the correct sentences.

- 0 You can hire bikes at the station. ✓  
 00 Andrew <sup>was able to</sup> could get tickets for the film yesterday.  
 1 Do you can drink the water from the taps in this country?  
 2 We couldn't find an English-language newspaper at the shop.  
 3 Erica could been really badly behaved when she was a child.  
 4 Did you manage to calling your mother yesterday evening?  
 5 To get the job you have to can speak fluent Spanish.  
 6 We weren't able to buy water in bottles in those days.  
 7 See you that man standing over there?  
 8 I'm so angry I can kill him!  
 9 London can be a very violent place in the nineteenth century.  
 10 I could record the film for you last night. It's on this DVD.