

## Can / could — ability

Complete the jokes by putting *can*, *can't*, *could*, or *couldn't* in the gaps provided:

**1** My father.....lift a pig with one hand.....your dad do that?

> I'm not sure. Where do you get a pig with one hand?

**2** What do you call a man with no ears?

> Anything you like because he.....

**3** Waiter, I.....eat this soup.

> I'm sorry, sir. I'll get the manager. (Manager arrives.)

I'm afraid I.....eat this soup.

> I'm sorry, sir. I'll call the cook.

(Cook arrives.)

I'm sorry, but I.....eat this soup.

> Why not, sir? Because I don't have a spoon!

**4** Why.....a car play football?

> I don't know. Because it only has one boot.

**5** Angela, since I met you I.....eat

and I.....drink.

> Oh Bruce! Is it because you love me so much? No. It's because I haven't got any money left.

**6** What.....you make that you.....see?

> I don't know. A noise.

**7** Why are you hitting your dog with a chair?

> Because I.....lift the table!

**8** I'd like three large fish and I want you to throw them to me, said a fisherman.

> But why? said the shopkeeper.

So that I.....tell my wife that I caught three fish.

**9** (In a library) Please be quiet. The other people in here.....read.

> Oh, what a pity. I.....read when I was six.

**10** Why did you buy that hat?

> Because I.....get it for nothing!

**11** Can I have a pair of crocodile shoes, please?

> Sure, (size take crocodile what your does)

**12** A woman ran into a shop and said,

> Do you have a mousetrap, please? Certainly, madam.

> And could you be quick? I have a bus to catch. I'm sorry, madam, (that make we traps don't big)

**13** Do you want to come to the cinema with me?

> Not with you!

Well, could you give me 10p to phone a friend?

> Here's 20 pence, (all them phone of).....

**14** Hello, Mrs Brown. Can James come out to play?

> I'm afraid not. He's sick and he's in bed.

Oh ... (out his can bike play to come).....?

**15** Mum, now that I'm sixteen, can I wear lipstick and put on make-up? Can I use nail varnish and wear short skirts?

> (can't no you John).....

**16** Tommy, your father says you broke the kitchen window with your football. Is this true?

> Yes, mum, but it was an accident.

Could you tell me what your father said to you?

> Can I leave out the swear words? Of course.

> Well then, (say didn't he anything) .....

