1 Lily is five years old. She lives in Manchester. Her favourite toy is a ball.

Look. I can kick the ball.

Very good, Lily!

2 Lily is nine years old. She wants to play football with the boys at school.

Go away, Lily. We don't want a girl on our team.

Oh, please let me. I can try.

3

Brilliant!

Well done, Lily.

I think girls *can* play football.

4 Lily plays football with the boys in the park after school every day.

We want Lily on our team.

We do, too.

5 When Lily is fifteen, a football coach watches her play.

You can play football very well, Lily. Do you want to try and join a professional team?

Oh, yes!

It isn't easy. You need to work hard.

I don't mind. I can do it.

6 Lily trains with the football team every day.

Come on, Lily. How many press-ups can you do?

20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, a hundred. Very good.

7 One day there's an important football match. One of the players on the team is ill.

Can you play for the team today, Lily?

Me? Yes, I can.

8 Lily scores one ... two ... three goals in the football match.

Wow! What amazing goals!

Who's the new player?

I don't know. She's a star.

Yes, girls really can play football.

Is Lily a star?

EXPRESSING ABILITY

I can kick the ball.

You can play football very well,Lily.

Girls (really)can play football.