

ABILITY

CAN	(Present)
COULD	(General past Past & Conditional)
TO BE ABLE TO	(Rest of tenses)

I **can** speak English very well
 Tom **can** carry these cases. He's very strong
Can I have a cup of tea, please?
 When she was only four years old, she **could** swim very well
 My friends **could** win the match if they practiced
Could you bring some water for me, please?
 If you practice a lot, you **will be able to** speak English soon
 I have telephoned him but I **haven't been able to** speak to him

- 1.- _____ you help me, please? I _____ (not) carry this bag.
- 2.- _____ your brother drive a car?
- 3.- I _____ (not) finished all my homework yet.
- 4.- The children _____ sleep in this room if they like it.
- 5.- He's very strong. He _____ lift anything.
- 6.- You're too young. You _____ (not) do that.
- 7.- I _____ ride a bicycle when I was only three.
- 8.- When he was young, he _____ run very fast.
- 9.- _____ you give me a hand with these exercises?
- 10.- In a few weeks, you _____ leave the hospital.
- 11.- He's very handy. He _____ do anything around the house.
- 12.- The adder is the only British snake that _____ kill a man.
- 13.- I've forgotten my key. So I _____ (not) come in.
- 14.- By means of X-rays, scientists _____ demonstrate that King Arthur's round table was actually made in 1330.
- 15.- He'd be hopeless as a managing director. He _____ (not) make up his mind about anything.
- 16.- He said there were five coins under the bed, but I've been looking for more than ten minutes and I _____ find only three.
- 17.- When the new wing at the hotel is built, they _____ take more guests.
- 18.- They have been researching into that illness for years, but they _____ (not) find out the cause of it.
- 19.- I'd like _____ spend my holidays in the Caribbean.
- 20.- We _____ (not) announce the results of the experiment today. but we expect announce them next week.

INFINITIVE

**to be able to**I hope **to be able to** get up from bed by next week.

GERUND

**being able to****Being able to** speak foreign languages is very useful.

PRESENT

**can**I **can't** give you an answer now.

PAST

general: **could**I **could** speak English quite well before I first went to Britain.particular moment: **was/were able to**I practiced a lot and **was able to** pass my driving test the first time

PR.PERFECT

**has/have been able to**We **haven't been able to** finish the report yet.

FUTURE

**will be able to**In a few months we **will be able to** go to Britain again.

- 1.- If the children do their homework, they _____ watch cartoons .
- 2.- _____ swim saved his life.
- 3- We _____ do a lot of things to help other people.
- 4- He has tried a lot of times, but he (not) _____ give up smoking yet.
- 5-I _____ win the race because all my team helped me a lot.
- 6- He would like _____ enter the competition, but he's too young.
- 7- I (not) _____ go on holiday since I started working here.
- 8- I (not) _____ go to Mary's wedding because I had to work.
- 9.- When I finish my diet, I _____ eat sweets again.
- 10- Her parents trusted her. She _____ do anything without asking for permission.
- 11.- I (not) _____ open the door. I left my keys in the office.
- 12.- When the snow on the road was cleared up, we _____ continue our journey.
- 13- (you) _____ open the window? It's very hot in here.

CHOOSE ONE OF THE TENSES IN THE BOX TO FILL THE GAPS

being able to
can
can
can't
can't

could
could
could
could
couldn't

couldn't
have been able to
have you been able to
haven't been able to
to be able to

was able to
weren't able to
will be able to
will be able to
won't be able to

- 1.- I _____ phone her yet. I've been too busy.
- 2.- When he was a little boy he was very fond of football. He _____ spend hours playing.
- 3.- When you go to Britain next summer you _____ speak Spanish to your host family.
- 4.- The letter was in German, so I _____ understand it.
- 5.- He has his meals at a restaurant because he _____ cook at all.
- 6.- I'm sure you _____ pass all your exams next term.
- 7.- _____ Susan go to the beach when she lived in the Canary Islands?
- 8.- He has a lot of free time. He _____ do anything he wants.
- 9.- _____ express your opinion isn't always allowed in some countries.
- 10.- _____ I ask you your age?
- 11.- If they arrive on time, they _____ have dinner with us.
- 12.- I _____ find my glasses. I don't remember where I left them.
- 13.- Although there was very heavy traffic, I _____ get to work just on time.
- 14.- His grandmother was a bit deaf. She _____ hear very well.
- 15.- _____ contact him since he went away?
- 16.- They left their tickets at home, so they _____ catch the plane.
- 17.- If I didn't have to work I _____ go with you.
- 18.- He is very ill in hospital. His friends _____ to visit him only twice since he had the accident.
- 19.- I _____ see the whole city from my hotel window when I was in Paris.

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES WITH 'CAN' 'COULD' OR 'BE ABLE TO' IN THE NECESSARY TENSE:

- 1.- Mr. Smith is very busy at the moment. He (not, see) _____ any customers until next week.
- 2.- (I, use) _____ your dictionary for a moment?
- 3.- You're very clever. I'm sure you (pass) _____ any exam you do.
- 4.- (you, speak) _____ German?
- 5.- I haven't taken a decision yet. I (not, give) _____ an answer.
- 6.- When Susan was only eighteen months old, she (speak and walk) _____ perfectly.
- 7.- I have looked everywhere but I (not, find) _____ the keys.
- 8.- If you train a lot, you (win) _____ the competition next spring.
- 9.- (I, ask) _____ you a personal question?
- 10.- You are very lucky with the parents you have. You (do) _____ anything you like.
- 11.- (you, ride) _____ a bike when you were a little girl?
- 12.- If you studied a little, I'm sure you (pass) _____ your exam.
- 13.- Mr. Jones needs help at home because he (not cook or do) _____ anything.
- 14.- I (not, understand) _____ him because he spoke a strange language I'd never heard before.
- 15.- When I start my diet next month, I (not, eat) _____ any more sweets.
- 16.- He would like to (travel) _____ all over the world but he isn't a millionaire.
- 17.- When he was young he was very shy. He (not, talk) _____ to people he didn't know well.
- 18.- Susan (not, visit) _____ her grandparents since she started working in the city.

KEY

PAGE 1

1. Can can't
2. can
3. haven't been able to
4. can
5. can
6. can't
7. could
8. could
9. can/could
10. will be able to
11. can
12. can
13. can't
14. have been able to
15. couldn't
16. have been able to
17. will be able to
18. haven't been able to
19. to be able to
20. can't to be able to

PAGE 2

1. will be able to
2. being able to swim
3. can/could
4. hasn't been able to
5. was able to
6. to be able to
7. haven't been able to
8. couldn't
9. will be able to
10. could
11. couldn't
12. were able to
13. can/could

PAGE 3

1. haven't been able to
2. could
3. won't be able to
4. couldn't
5. can't
6. will be able to
7. could
8. can
9. being able to
10. can
11. will be able to
12. can't
13. was able to
14. couldn't
15. have you been able to
16. weren't able to
17. could
18. have been able to
19. could

PAGE 4

1. won't be able to see
2. Can/could I use
3. can/will be able to pass
4. can you speak
5. can't give
6. could speak and walk
7. haven't been able to find
8. will be able to win
9. can/could I ask
10. can do
11. could you ride
12. would be able to/could pass
13. can't cook or do
14. couldn't understand
15. won't be able to eat
16. to be able to travel
17. couldn't talk
18. hasn't been able to visit