

# Modals and phrases of ability



## CAN

We use to talk about general abilities, in the Present Tense.

1

Read the grammar guide carefully. Match the information about the modal verbs on the left, with the pictures on the right. Write the correct number.

|  |                                                        |                                                   |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>I like being able to visit my parents regularly</p> | <p>I could run really fast when I was a child</p> |
|  |                                                        |                                                   |

## COULD

We use to talk about general abilities, in the Past Simple.

2

Complete the sentences with **can**, **could** and **be able to**

1. I went to Tulcán last year but I **can't/ couldn't** visit the well known graveyard.
2. Rodolfo's **been able to swim** / He **can swim** since he was a child.
3. When Amparo was a kid, she **could/ was able to** dance very well.
4. Rafaela tried to see Breaking Bad, but she **can't/ wasn't able to** finish it.
5. Juan **managed/ could** summit peaks when he was a teenager, but he **can't/ couldn't** climb a mountain now.
6. Francisca needs to **can/ be able to** speak Quechua in her new job.

## BE ABLE TO

In present perfect, past perfect and after modal verbs. To define specific past achievements

3

Look the pictures and complete with the correct modal or phrase of ability



Pedro \_\_\_\_\_ sing well. He sings awfully.



My mom \_\_\_\_\_ cook when she got married because she didn't have enough time.



Everyone should \_\_\_\_\_ to speak English.