

can could be able to

	Ability	Possibility	Permission/Requests
Present Simple	<i>I can speak English</i>	<i>I can't come to the party. It could be better next year.</i>	<i>Can I come in? Could you speak more slowly?</i>
Past Simple	<i>I could play piano very well. She was able to (managed to) pass the exam. (specific ability)</i>	_____	_____
Future Simple	<i>We will be able to go to the concert.</i>	_____	_____

Specific ability: when you can or can't do something in a particular situation. When we talk about achieving something on a particular occasion in the past or in the future.

We lost our compass but we were able (managed to) find the road in the end.

In negative sentences we can use both **could** and **be able to** to say that we were not capable of doing something on a specific occasion.

It was very dark and we couldn't (weren't able to) find the right path.



1. The new laser projector wasn't working at first but we

fix it.

2. I watched this film last year but I understand the main point.

3. I find my wallet. Can you help me?

4. After two years of studying English I speak fluently now.

5. I have never solve riddles as quickly as my sister.

6. I am making a progress! Yesterday I read an article without any dictionary.

7. She fainted but fortunately her friends help her to regain consciousness.

8. You go out with your friends if you want.

9. When we were children my cousin sing far more better than me.

10. I go to the cinema?

11. After few hours of walking we find the right road.

12. She says that she play the guitar very well.

13. There was a fire in the house but everyone escape.

14. She swim before she learned to walk.

15. I smell the faint trace of a chocolate cake!