

Complete the table using the words from the box. Words can be used more than once.

WASN'T/WEREN'T ABLE TO	WILL BE ABLE TO	CAN	COULD
CAN'T	MANAGED TO	WON'T BE ABLE TO	
WAS/WERE ABLE TO	COULDN'T	DIDN'T MANAGE TO	

TALKING ABOUT ABILITY

Ability in the present	Ability in the past	Ability in the future
We use _____ / _____ to talk about ability/lack of ability in the present. E.g: I can swim. I can't speak Chinese.	We use COULD, MANAGED TO AND WAS/WERE ABLE TO to talk about ability in the past. - To talk about LACK of ability <u>on one occasion</u>, we can use the negative form of ALL THREE VERBS. E.g: I _____ / _____ climb the mountain because it was too high. - To talk about <u>general ability</u> in the past, we usually use _____. E.g: Jessie could read before she went to school. - To talk about <u>general LACK of ability</u> in the past, we usually use _____. E.g: This time last year, I couldn't skate, but now I can! - To talk about <u>specific ability on one occasion</u> in the past, we use _____. E.g: The river was deep, but we were	We use CAN / CAN'T OR WILL / WON'T BE ABLE TO to talk about ability/lack of ability in the future. - To talk about <u>general ability</u> in the future, we use _____ / _____. E.g: At the end of the course, you'll be able to make your own website. He won't be able to fly a plane in a week – it'll take months! - To talk about <u>specific ability</u> in the future, we use _____ / _____ + time expressions E.g: I haven't got time now, but I can help you later. Sorry, but I can't come to your barbecue on Friday.

	able to cross it. • To talk about <u>a particular achievement in the past that needed a lot of effort</u>, we use managed to / succeeded in E.g: She managed to win the championship.	
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