



MODALS OF ABILITY

MODAL

USAGE

PRESENT

EXAMPLE

CAN General or specific ability CAN/CAN'T Richard **can** speak French fluently.

BE ABLE TO General or specific ability AM/ARE/IS (NOT)ABLE TO Max **was able to** swim.



MODAL

USAGE

PAST

EXAMPLE

COULD Could - general ability COULD My sister **could** swim when I was six.

Couldn't - general or specific COULDN'T I **couldn't** play the piano when she was five.

BE ABLE TO General or specific ability WAS/WERE (NOT) ABLE TO Jennifer **was not able to** dance when she was eight.

MANAGED TO Specific ability MANAGED TO Police finally **managed to** catch the culprit.

MODAL

USAGE

FUTURE

EXAMPLE

CAN General or specific ability CAN/CAN'T I **can** help you tomorrow.

BE ABLE TO General ability. WILL/WON'T BE ABLE TO Journalists **will be able to** preview the exhibition tomorrow.