4B Yes, I can!



G ability and possibility: *can, could, be able to* | V *-ed / -ing* adjectives | P sentence stress

1 GRAMMAR ability and possibility

a Look at the list of skills. With a partner, find...

- two that you *can* do.
- two that you *can't* do.
- two that you *could* do when you were ten years old.
- two that you *couldn't* do when you were ten years old.

change a car wheel | do yoga | dance salsa | knit or sew | play a musical instrument | play tennis | ride a bike | run 5 km | sing well | ski | swim | take good photos | type fast | use an Excel spreadsheet

b 4.12 Look at the photos. Listen and complete the conversations.





c Look at conversations 1 and 2 in **b** again. Complete the sentences.

1 You can't use _____ in the infinitive or present perfect.
2 *Be able to* means the same as _____.

d G p.139 Grammar Bank 4B

e Look at the topics. Choose two or three and think about what you could say about them.

- something that you would like to be able to do
- something you've tried to learn, but have never been able to do well
- something you learned to do after a lot of effort
- something you can do, but you'd like to be able to do better
- something you think all young people should be able to do before they leave school

f Work with a partner. Tell him or her about the things you chose in **e**. Give reasons or explanations for each one.

I'd like to be able to ski, but I don't think I'll ever learn, because I don't live near the mountains.

2 PRONUNCIATION sentence stress

a 4.15 Listen to four sentences. Write the stressed words in the pink boxes.

1 _____ .
2 _____ .
3 _____ .
4 _____ .

b Look at the stressed words and try to remember the unstressed words. Then listen again to check and write them in.

c Listen again and repeat the sentences. Copy the rhythm.

d 4.16 Listen and make new sentences with the verbs or verb phrases you hear.

1 *I'd love to be able to ski.*
ride a horse → *I'd love to be able to ride a horse.*

2 *We won't be able to come.*
park → *We won't be able to park.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 LISTENING

a Read the text. Do you believe Malcolm Gladwell or Josh Kaufman?

Learn a new skill in 20 hours

It was Malcolm Gladwell, the popular writer on modern psychology, who popularized the idea that it takes 10,000 hours of practice to really master a new skill, such as playing the piano. But in this non-stop world, who has that kind of time? In his book *The First 20 Hours*, Josh Kaufman tells you how to learn any new skill really quickly. By completing just 20 hours of focused practice, you'll be able to go from knowing absolutely nothing to performing well. But is it really possible? Matt Rudd, a *Sunday Times* journalist, decided to give it a try.

b Read about Matt's past experience of learning the trumpet. Why do you think he gave up so fast?

Matt Rudd learns the trumpet

I haven't played a musical instrument for years. Five years ago, I got a trumpet for my birthday and I tried to learn it, but I gave up after seven minutes, and it ended up in the garage. So here I am, a beginner again.



c 4.17 Listen and match the sounds with the music words in **bold**.

- three different **musical instruments** playing together
- five **notes** from C to G
- a **high note** and a **low note**
- an **octave**
- a **tune**
- somebody **busking**

d 4.18 Now listen to Matt talking about his experience. Choose the best summary.

1 He didn't learn anything at all.
2 He learned something, but not enough.
3 He learned a lot.

e Listen again. For each stage, circle the correct word or phrase.

1 hour
He feels *optimistic / pessimistic.*

2 hours
He feels *pleased / unhappy* with his progress.

5 hours
He thinks the online trumpet teacher is *annoying / great.*

9 hours
He's frustrated by how little he can play / He's happy because he can play simple tunes.

14 hours
He's really enjoying himself / He's depressed and wants to give up.

15 hours
Matilda Lloyd tells him he's doing *well / badly.*

17 hours
He feels *optimistic again / disappointed.*

20 hours
He thinks he'll probably give up / He thinks he'll be able to improve.

f Do you think Matt will continue learning the trumpet. Why (not)?

4 SPEAKING

Work in small groups. Answer the question below for the different skills.

How well do you think you'd be able to do these things after learning for 20 hours?

play a musical instrument
speak a new language
draw a portrait
drive
design and build a website
take professional-quality photos
cook a three-course meal
dance the tango
ski or windsurf
give first aid

LIVEWORKSHEETS