**Ability and possibility: Activity 1**

Read Grammar Bank 4B. Then write the correct form in the space after the sentence. Write *both* if both forms are possible. Listen and check.

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| **Grammar Bank**  **4B** ability and possibility: *can, could, be able to*  **can / could** EXAMPLES I **can** speak three languages fluently.  Jenny **can’t** come tonight. She’s sick. Our daughter **could** play the violin when she was three. They **couldn’t** wait because they were in a hurry.  Could you open the door for me, please?  FORM • *can* is a modal verb. It only has a present form (which can be used with future meaning) and a past or conditional form (*could*). • For all other tenses and forms, we use *be able to* + base for.  ***be able to* + infinitive** EXAMPLES **1** Luke **has been able to** swim since he was three. I’d like **to be able to** ski. I love **being able to** stay in bed late on Sunday morning. You**’ll be able to** practice your English in the U.S. **2** Fortunately, I **am able to** accept your invitation. My colleagues **weren’t able to come** to yesterday’s meeting. FORM **1** We use *be able to* + base form for ability and possibility, especially where there is no form of *can*, e.g., present perfect, infinitive, gerund, future, etc. **2** We sometimes use *be able to* in the present and past (instead of *can*/*could*), usually if we want to be more formal. |

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| 1.  My little boy *couldn’t* / *wasn’t able to* speak until he was nearly two years old. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  2.  She’s much better after her operation. She’ll *can* / *be able to* walk again soon. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  3.  He hasn’t *could* / *been able to* fix my bike yet. He’ll do it tomorrow. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  4.  It’s the weekend at last! I love *can* / *being able to* go out with my friends. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  5.  When we lived on the coast, we used to *can* / *be able to* go to the beach every day. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  6.  I *can’t* / *’m not able to* send any emails because my computer isn’t working. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  7.  I *could* / *was able to* read before I started school. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  8.  We won’t *can* / *be able to* go on vacation this year because we need a new car. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  9.  Linda’s happy because she’s finally *could*/ *been able to* find a part-time job. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  10.  Alex *can* / *is able to* speak Korean fluently after living in Seoul for ten years. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |

**Ability and possibility: Activity 2**

Complete the sentences with the correct form of *be able to*: [+], [-], or [?]. Listen and check.

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| 1.  Her cell phone has been turned off all morning, so I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  talk to her yet.  2.  I don’t like noisy restaurants. I like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   have a conversation without shouting.  3.  I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   leave home when I get a job.  4.  We’re having a party next Saturday. Are you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   come?  5.  You need \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   swim before you can go in a canoe.  6.  I can speak five languages. I hate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   communicate with people in their own language.  7.  Fortunately, firefighters \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   rescue everybody from the burning house.  8.  I’m very sorry, but we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   come to your wedding next month. We’ll be on vacation.  9.  I wonder where Paul is. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  contact him yet?  10.  The manager \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   see you right now because she’s in a meeting. |  |

***ed* / *ing* adjectives: Activity 1**

Choose the correct adjectives to complete the sentences. Listen and check.

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| 1.  What music do you listen to if you feel depressed / depressing ?  2.  What do you think is the most excited / exciting sport to watch?  3.  What’s the most amazed / amazing scenery you’ve ever seen?  4.  Have you ever been disappointed / disappointing by a birthday present?  5.  Which do you find more tired / tiring , clothes shopping or grocery shopping? |  |

***ed* / *ing* adjectives: Activity 2**

Complete the sentences with the adjectives in the list. Change the ending of the adjectives if necessary. Listen and check.

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| bored         embarrassing         frightening      frustrated         tiring |  |

**1.** What’s the most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thing that's ever happened to you?   
**2.** Are you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of heights?    
**3.** Do you usually feel very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the morning?  
**4.** What’s the most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ movie you've ever seen?   
**5.** Do you ever get \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by technology?

**Sentence stress**

Listen for the stressed words and complete the sentences. Listen again and repeat. Copy the rhythm.

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| 1.  I’d \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . |  |
| 2.  We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . |  |
| 3.  I’ve \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . |  |
| 4.  She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . |  |

**Lost in translation: Activity 1**

You are going to hear five speakers talking about mistakes they have made in a foreign language. Listen and complete the sentences.

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| 1.  Speaker 1 was speaking French / Greek / Spanish to a host family / a salesperson / a waiter.  2.  Speaker 2 was speaking Italian / Turkish / Greek to some girls / a host family / a salesperson .  3.  Speaker 3 was speaking French / Spanish / Italian to some girls / a host family / a waiter .  4.  Speaker 4 was speaking Turkish / Portuguese / Spanish to some girls / a salesperson / a waiter.  5.  Speaker 5 was speaking Korean / French / Turkish to a salesperson / some girls / a waiter |  |

**Lost in translation: Activity 2**

Listen again and complete the sentences. You can read the audio script to help you.

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| **Speaker 1** I suffer from asthma and I usually carry an inhaler around with me just in case I get an attack. Anyway, I was on a work trip – I was in Paris – I had forgotten my inhaler, and I was having problems breathing. So I went to a pharmacy and asked for “un aspirateur,” which I thought was the French word for inhaler. I realized it wasn’t when the girls behind the counter looked very confused. It turned out that I had asked for a vacuum cleaner, “aspirateur,” instead of an inhaler, “inhalateur.”  **Speaker 2** I was in Istanbul with a Turkish friend of mine, and we decided that we wanted to buy some bread. I wanted to try out the Turkish I knew, so I said that I would ask for it. So we found this tiny little store and we went in. I said to the salesperson in my best voice “taze erkek” which I thought meant “fresh bread.” Unfortunately, I got the word for bread “ekmek” confused with the word for man “erkek,” so what I had actually asked for was “a fresh young man.” Luckily, my friend came to my rescue and asked for the bread correctly, but I felt a little embarrassed!  **Speaker 3** I was 14, and I was on an exchange visit with my school in Madrid. It was the first night, and I was at home with my Spanish host family, the Garcías, having dinner. We’d finished the main course and it was time for dessert, so the wife, Maria, asked me if I’d like some fruit. I saw some bananas in the fruit bowl, so I asked for a “platón,” at which point the whole family looked at me strangely. They then explained to me that I’d actually asked for a large plate. “Platón” means “large plate” whereas “banana” is “plátano.”  **Speaker 4:** I was in Rio De Janeiro in Brazil with my husband, and it was a very hot day, so we decided to take a break from our sightseeing. We found a street vendor selling cold drinks and snacks near the beach. I was so hot and tired that I quickly ordered what I thought was ice cream. I said “uma cosquinha por favor.” As soon as I’d finished speaking, the street vendor burst out laughing. He quickly apologized and explained in English that I’d asked him for a tickle and not ice cream. Tickle in Portuguese is “cosquinha” and ice cream is “casquinha.”  **Speaker 5:** I’m an American living in Korea. Usually, I can communicate pretty well in Korean. I speak Korean with my wife every day, and I have a tutor that I meet with every week to practice my conversation skills. So, one day I went to the store to buy a few things. I usually take my young son with me, but he wasn’t with me this particular day. When the salesperson asked me about my son, my answer confused her because I accidentally said “eh-jeh uhb-suh-yo,” which means “he’s dead.” What I meant to say was “Yuh-gi uhb-suh-yo" which means “he’s not here.” |  |

1.  Speaker 1 wanted to say *inhaler*, but he actually said \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

2.  Speaker 2 wanted to say \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , but she actually said \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

3.  Speaker 3 wanted to say \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , but he actually said \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

4.  Speaker 4 wanted to say \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , but she actually said \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

5.  Speaker 5 wanted to say he's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_