

BE ABLE TO (CAN BE)

BE ABLE TO

***Be able to* is like *can*. We use it to talk about abilities. We often use it in places where it is not possible to use *can*. For example, it isn't possible to use *can* after another modal verb:**

- She **won't be able to** concentrate.
- Not: She ~~won't can~~ concentrate.
- He **should be able to** work in a team.
 - Not: He ~~should can~~ work in a team.

***Be able to* is a more formal alternative to *can*:**

- I am very sorry but I **am not able to** give you that information. (or, less formal: I cannot give you that information.)

PAST ACHIEVEMENT: COULD OR WAS/WERE ABLE TO

We usually use *was/were able to*, not *could* to talk about past achievements in affirmative clauses. This is because they are facts, rather than possibilities:

- Only one person **was able to** beat the record.
 - Not: Only one person ~~could~~ beat the record.

We use *couldn't* or, more formally, *wasn't/weren't able to* in negative clauses:

- We **weren't able to** finish the marathon in under four hours. (or We **couldn't** finish the marathon ...)

ABLE (Meaning of “able” in the English Dictionary)

Adjective:

To have the necessary physical strength, mental power, skill,time, money, or opportunity to do something (CAN DO):

- *Will she be able to cope with the work?*
- *He's never been able to admit to his mistakes.*
- *I'm sorry that I wasn't able to phone you yesterday.*
- *It's so wonderful being able to see the sea from my window.*

Intelligent or good at what you do (SKILFUL):

- *an able child/student/secretary*
- *This problem is now being looked at by some of the ablest minds/scientists in the country.*

Having what is needed to do something, esp. the physical or mental power, skill, time, money, or opportunity:

- *I lost my job and wasn't able to afford my old apartment.*
- *We won't be able to keep up this kind of effort much longer.*

Informações extraídas do site:
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/grammar/british-grammar/be-and-be-expressions/be-expressions-be-able-to-be-due-to>