

# Expressing Ability

## Teacher's Notes

**Description:** Though talking about Ability in the present is something that most students get to grips with early on in their acquaintance with English, when it comes to the future, past, and other tenses things aren't quite as straightforward. Through the written and communicative activities in this resource, students can practise this at times baffling concept in a fun and varied manner.

**Aim:** To practise the expressing Ability through a variety of written and communicative activities.

**Procedure:** Give each student a copy of the two-page activity sheet.

**Exercise A:** Students begin by completing the sentences with either 'can', 'could', or 'be able to'.

answer key:

1. could      2. can      3. be able to      4. be able to      5. be able to

**Exercise B:** Next, students match the beginnings of the sentences with the correct endings, then circle the correct Ability words.

answer key: (some answers may vary)

1. e, was able to fix      2. f, won't be able to move      3. a, can speak      4. c, could run  
5. d, can't fly      6. g, won't be able to drive      7. b, will be able to finish

**Exercise C:** Students then complete the sentences, using the verbs in brackets with the correct Ability verb.

answer key: (some answers may vary)

1. couldn't do      6. will be able to retire  
2. was able to climb      7. won't be able to check in  
3. won't be able to come      8. could walk  
4. can you help      9. will be able to visit  
5. can't write      10. can't eat

**Exercise D:** After this, students complete the sentences, choosing the correct verb and using it with a suitable Ability verb.

answer key: (some answers may vary)

1. can't light      6. will be able to travel  
2. was able to fix      7. can enter  
3. can't afford      8. couldn't call  
4. was able to go      9. can run  
5. couldn't eat      10. will be able to stay

**Exercise E:** Lastly, students complete the sentences, using the correct verb with a suitable Ability verb. They then chat with their partner and decide whether each sentence is true or false. After they've done this, they work together to come up with three true or false Ability facts of their own, then find another partner and see if they can guess which ones are true.

answer key:

1. couldn't travel, false      2. can't walk, true      3. can sleep, true  
4. can find, false      5. won't be able to visit, true