



## Ability (can/could): Be Able To: All Tenses

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. She \_\_\_ finish the project by Friday. (future)  
a) can  
b) could  
c) is able  
d) will be able to
2. He \_\_\_ solve the problem yesterday after hours of work.  
a) could  
b) was able to  
c) can  
d) has been able to
3. I \_\_\_ attend the meeting tomorrow. I have a doctor's appointment.  
a) can't able to  
b) don't able to  
c) won't be able to  
d) am not able
4. They \_\_\_ find a solution since they started working on the project.  
a) haven't been able to  
b) couldn't  
c) can't  
d) weren't able to
5. She \_\_\_ speak clearly since the surgery. She's much better now.  
a) could  
b) can  
c) was able to  
d) has been able to
6. Are you \_\_\_ see the board from the back of the room?  
a) can  
b) able to  
c) could  
d) be able
7. I want to \_\_\_ play the guitar by next year.  
a) can  
b) could  
c) be able to  
d) able
8. We \_\_\_ escape through the back door when the fire started.  
a) were able to  
b) could  
c) can  
d) have been able to
9. She \_\_\_ pass the exam if she studies hard enough.  
a) can able to  
b) will be able to  
c) is able  
d) could
10. I \_\_\_ sleep well recently because of stress.  
a) couldn't  
b) can't  
c) wasn't able to  
d) haven't been able to
11. After months of practice, he \_\_\_ pass his driving test.  
a) could  
b) can  
c) was able to  
d) has been able to





## Answers

1. d) will be able to
2. b) was able to
3. c) won't be able to
4. a) haven't been able to
5. d) has been able to
6. b) able to
7. c) be able to
8. a) were able to
9. b) will be able to
10. d) haven't been able to
11. c) was able to
12. a) be able to
13. d) hasn't been able to
14. b) wasn't able to
15. a) be able to
16. c) is able to
17. b) were able to
18. d) be able to
19. a) has been able to
20. c) weren't able to



# Explanations

**1. “will be able to” (d)**

Use 'will be able to' for future ability. 'Can' and 'could' cannot be used with 'will'.

**2. “was able to” (b)**

For a specific past achievement (one successful action), use 'was/were able to', not 'could'. He succeeded on that particular occasion.

**3. “won't be able to” (c)**

Use 'won't be able to' for future inability. 'Can't able to' and 'don't able to' are not grammatically correct.

**4. “haven't been able to” (a)**

Use 'haven't been able to' with the present perfect. 'Since they started' requires present perfect tense.

**5. “has been able to” (d)**

'Since the surgery' requires present perfect. Use 'has been able to' to show ability from a past point until now.

**6. “able to” (b)**

After 'Are you', use 'able to' to ask about present ability. The full form is 'Are you able to ...?'.

**7. “be able to” (c)**

After 'want to', use 'be able to'. Modal verbs like 'can' cannot follow 'to'.

**8. “were able to” (a)**

For a specific past achievement (they actually escaped), use 'were able to'. 'Could' is for general past ability, not a single success.

**9. “will be able to” (b)**

Use 'will be able to' for a predicted future ability. 'Can able to' is never correct.

**10. “haven't been able to” (d)**

'Recently' suggests a period up to now — use present perfect: 'haven't been able to'.

**11. “was able to” (c)**

Passing the test was a specific one-time achievement in the past. Use 'was able to', not 'could'.

**12. “be able to” (a)**

After modal verbs like 'should', use 'be able to'. You cannot put 'can' after 'should'.

**13. “hasn't been able to” (d)**

'Yet' signals present perfect. Use 'hasn't been able to' for something not achieved up to now.

**14. “wasn't able to” (b)**

'For weeks after my injury' is a defined past period. Use 'wasn't able to' to describe inability during that time.

**15. “be able to” (a)**

After 'Will you', use 'be able to'. 'Can' cannot follow 'will'.

**16. “is able to” (c)**

'Is able to' is the present form of 'be able to'. It means the same as 'can' but uses the 'be' verb.

**17. “were able to” (b)**

Reaching the summit was a specific past achievement. Use 'were able to' for a successful single action.

**18. “be able to” (d)**

After 'might', use 'be able to'. Two modal verbs (might + can) cannot go together.

**19. “has been able to” (a)**

'Since she got her licence' requires present perfect. Use 'has been able to' for ability from a past point until now.

**20. “weren't able to” (c)**

The past tense 'were sold out' shows this is past. Use 'weren't able to' for a specific past situation where they failed.