



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

1 Ability

Can and be able to – present

+	can + verb	I <i>can</i> swim.
-	can't + verb	She <i>can't</i> swim.
?	can ... + verb?	<i>Can</i> you swim?
+	am/is/are able to + verb	I'm <i>able to</i> swim.
-	am/is/are not able to + verb	He's <i>not able to</i> swim.
?	am/is/are ... able to + verb?	<i>Are you able to</i> swim?

We use *can* or *be able to* to say that someone has an ability:

James *can / is able to* play chess but he *can't / isn't able to* ride a bicycle.

Can and be able to – past

+	could + verb	I <i>could</i> swim.
-	couldn't + verb	She <i>couldn't</i> swim.
?	could ... + verb?	<i>Could</i> you swim?
+	was/were able to + verb	I <i>was able to</i> swim.
-	was/were not able to + verb	I <i>wasn't able to</i> swim.
?	was/were ... able to + verb?	<i>Were you able to</i> swim?

We use *could* or *was able to* to say that someone had an ability in the past:

He *could / was able to* read when he was three but he *couldn't / wasn't able to* catch a ball when he started school.

▲ We do not use *could* to talk about one occasion in the past, but we can use *couldn't*:

She *was able to* (not ~~could~~) come to the meeting but she *couldn't / wasn't able to* stay for lunch.

They *were able to* (not ~~could~~) see the match because they had a day off.

Be able to – other tenses

For ability, *can* is only used in the present tense and *could* is only used in the past.

In all other tenses we use *be able to*:

I *will be able to* give you a lift on my way to college. (future)

They *haven't been able to* contact Mary because of the storms. (present perfect)

If you saved enough money, you *would be able to* visit me in New Zealand. (conditional)

They *hope to be able to* visit me next year. (infinitive)



EVROPSKÁ UNIE



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OP Vzdělávání pro konkurenceschopnost



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4 Read the text from the Student's Book. Are the statements (1-10) true (✓) or false (X)? Put ✓ or X.

Hello. I'm Polly Johnson. I have two sisters, Lucy and Nicole. My mother, my father and I are hairdressers. We work from Tuesday to Saturday. We don't work on Sundays and Mondays. My sisters don't work. They are at school. They like swimming on Saturdays. In the evenings we all like watching television. My sisters like listening to music, but my parents and I don't. We like reading. My parents like cooking, but my sisters and I don't! We like going out with our friends at weekends.

- 1 Polly's parents have three children.
2 Lucy and Nicole are hairdressers.
3 Polly and her parents work six days a week.
4 Polly's sisters go to school.
5 Lucy and Nicole like swimming.
6 Polly's parents like watching television.
7 Polly and her sisters like listening to music.
8 Polly and her parents like reading.
9 Polly's parents don't like cooking.
10 Polly and her sisters like going out with their friends on Saturdays.

5 Write questions using when.

Example you/go to the disco? When do you go to the disco?

- 1 they/eat in a restaurant?
2 you/go to church?
3 you/go dancing?
4 they/cook?
5 you/use your computer?

6 Circle the correct words in each sentence.

Example At weekends I go swim / swimming and play / playing tennis.

- 1 On / In Wednesday evenings I have / learn Italian lessons.
2 What / Where do you work? In / To an office or a shop?
3 We like go / going out with its / our friends.
4 We are / is sisters but we aren't / don't go the same school.
5 My parents staying / stay at home at weekends but I go / going out.

7 Complete the text. Choose ten words from the box.

cook watching not on We stay go Our eat listening live Their cooking don't going They eating in

My name's Alison. I'm 25 and I live with my husband, Dan, in Birmingham. (1) live in a big, old house in the centre of the city. Dan is an artist and I'm a photographer. (2) jobs are very interesting. I work from Monday to Friday but I (3) work at weekends. On Saturdays I (4) at home and read. Dan and I (5) in a restaurant (6) Friday evenings. I like (7) food from different countries like Italy, Thailand, and India. On Saturdays I (8) to the market for the food and drinks from other countries. Dan and I like (9) to the cinema or (10) to music on Sundays.