

Quick Notes:
Modals of ability

<u>Can</u>	<u>Could</u>	<u>Be able to</u>
Used to express ability in the present	Used to express ability in the past	Used to express ability in present, past, and future
s + can + base verb	s + could + base verb	s + be able to + base verb
Ex. I <u>can</u> sing well.	Ex. I <u>could</u> sing when I was a child.	Ex. I <u>am able to</u> sing well. I <u>was able to</u> sing well when I was a child. I <u>will be able to</u> sing better after my vocal lessons.
Negative	Negative	Negative
s + cannot (can't) + base verb	s + could not (couldn't) + base verb	s + be + not + able to + base verb (use the to be contraction forms for negative; will not → won't)
Ex. I <u>can't</u> sing well.	I <u>couldn't</u> sing when I was a child.	Ex. I <u>'m not able to</u> sing well. I <u>wasn't</u> able to sing well when I was a child. I <u>won't be able to</u> sing better.
Question	Question	Question
can + s + base verb	could + s + base verb	be + s + be able to + base verb
Ex. <u>Can</u> you <u>sing</u> ?	Ex. <u>Could</u> you <u>sing</u> when you were a child?	Ex. <u>Are</u> you <u>able to</u> sing? <u>Were</u> you <u>able to</u> sing when you were a child? <u>Will</u> you <u>be able to</u> sing?

special note: *be able to* can be interchanged with can for present or could for past (see chart for example). However, *can* and *could* are the most common.*