

Be Able To Lesson Plan

WRITE ON BOARD:

CAN

COULD

SAY:

What is the infinitive of 'CAN' and 'COULD'?

<answer: it doesn't have one>

Why doesn't it have one?

English is a very basic language and a lot of essential elements to language are missing from English.

Anyway, so what's the problem with a verb not having an infinitive form?

<solicit responses>

Well, how can we express ability in the future, for example?

After some guitar lessons, I "BEEEEEP" play a few chords.

We have to use a horrible construction.

WRITE ON BOARD:

To be able to

I will be able to play a few chords

<i>Present Simple</i>	<i>Past Simple</i>	<i>Future WILL</i>	<i>Present Perfect</i>
<i>I can go</i>	<i>I could go</i>	<i>I will be able to go</i>	<i>I have been able to go</i>

I go; we finish; they do it; Andy can sort it out; Gordon doesn't attend

INSTRUCTIONS:

<Get the students to help you fill in the table with the phrases shown under the table.>

ORAL DRILL:

Listen. They haven't repaired it... they haven't been able to repair it

Now you:-

I'll do it tomorrow

She'll finish it tomorrow

We will go at the weekend

You've started it

He hasn't fixed the virus

She hasn't done it

WRITE ON BOARD:

An Extra Meaning

to be able to = to manage to

The firemen were able to rescue everyone

More resources about Be Able to by Bob Wilson at [autoenglish.org](http://www.autoenglish.org)

- drills and questions in the teachers' book <http://www.autoenglish.org/ebooks/teflhandbook.pdf>
- game for class 'Organiser' <http://www.autoenglish.org/games/organiser.pdf>
- printable exercise <http://www.autoenglish.org/gr.can.pdf>
- online exercise <http://www.autoenglish.org/gr.can.i.htm>
- video lesson by Bob Wilson <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKqCIAjy4DY>
- mp3 lesson <http://www.autoenglish.org/mp3s/beableto.mp3>

