

CAN – COULD – BE ABLE TO

Complete the sentences using **can**, **could** or **(be) able to**. Use **can** if possible; otherwise use **(be) able to**

- a. I'd like **to be able to** speak English fluently.
- b. Gary has travelled a lot. He **can** speak five languages.
- c. Did you have difficulty finding our office?
Not really. Your directions were good and we **were able to** find it.
- d. I haven't **been able to** sleep very well recently.
- e. Did everybody escape from the fire?
Yes, although the fire spread quickly, everybody **was able to** escape.
- f. Could you speak a little louder? I **can't** hear you very well.
- g. Nicole **can** drive, but she hasn't got a car.
- h. When Tim was 16, he **could** run 100 metres in 11 seconds
- i. Did the thief get away?
Yes. No-one realized what was happening and the thief **was able to escape**.
- j. I used to **be able to** stand on my head.
- k. I can't understand Martin. I've **never been able to** understand him.
- l. I can't meet you on Friday, but I meet you on Saturday morning.
- m. Ask Catherine about your problem. She might help you.
- n. I'm afraid I come to the meeting next week.
- o. I'm sorry I come to the meeting last week.
- p. Did you finish your work this afternoon?
Yes, there was nobody to disturb me so I finish.
- q. Are you in a hurry?" "No, I've got plenty of time. I wait."