

7A

New skills

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- Warm-up - Question tags
- Vocabulary & Reading
- Listening & Grammar - Abilities

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Work in groups. You have 10 minutes.
Ask the members of your group the questions below.

Do you know how to...

1. drive a car?
2. fix your own bicycle?
3. whistle?
4. say the English alphabet in under 10 seconds without making a mistake?
5. speak more than 2 languages?
6. swim?
7. play a musical instrument?
8. write a computer program?
9. bake your own bread?

1 Read the leaflet and discuss the questions.

1 Who is the leaflet for?

2 What can people learn at the adult education centre?

It's never too late to learn something new! At **Newington Adult Education Centre**, we offer a wide range of high-quality adult education courses for people of all ages. Sign up today!



Cookery



We offer a range of cookery classes, including Chinese, Indian and Thai cooking. Learn how to prepare delicious dishes from around the world. Gain confidence and experience during the course.

Do-it-yourself basics



Develop practical skills to look after your own home. Learn basic painting, how to change a plug and how to put up shelves.

Music



We offer courses in guitar, keyboards, drums and vocals. Develop the technical skills you need to play an instrument and learn a range of popular songs.

Modern foreign languages



Choose from courses in 20 languages including German, Italian, Spanish, Chinese and Russian. All levels from Beginners to Advanced. Work on your language skills and improve your speaking skills before you go on holiday!

Information technology



Courses include how to use popular software packages and how to design your own website.

Photography



Improve your skills to take better photographs and learn how to edit your photos. You will need to bring your own digital camera.

Collocations - Some words are commonly used together (e.g., *make dinner*), and other words are never used together (e.g., ~~*make the cleaning*~~). There is usually no rule or reason for this. We must just memorize words as they are used together!

2 a Cross out the incorrect alternative for each verb.

- 1 **work on** your language skills/~~an office~~/ your singing
- 2 **gain** confidence/experience/ a competition
- 3 **improve** how to design a website/~~your speaking skills~~/~~your maths~~
- 4 **develop** practical skills/~~your interview skills~~/~~English~~
- 5 **prepare** delicious dishes/~~for an interview~~/~~the violin~~
- 6 **edit** photos/~~your conversation skills~~/~~your work~~
- 7 **design** a story/a website/~~your own clothes~~
- 8 **learn** how to change a plug/~~the drums~~/~~your English~~
- 9 **take** photos/~~skills~~/~~a course~~

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3 a Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

- 1 I need to work on my ...
- 2 I've never designed ...
- 3 I'd love to learn how to ...
- 4 Lots of people do courses to help them prepare ...
- 5 The last course I took was in ...
- 6 I'm quite happy with my ... skills. I don't think I need to improve them.

b Work in pairs and compare your answers.



- 4 a**  **7.1 Listen to two friends, Janet and Sam, discussing the courses in the leaflet. Which courses do they mention?**
- b Listen again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.**
- 1 Janet can play the piano and the drums.
 - 2 Sam would like to be able to play the guitar.
 - 3 Janet likes Indian food but she isn't able to cook it.
 - 4 Janet could speak another language well in the past but she can't now.
 - 5 Sam was able to help his sister with her new flat.



4 c Work in pairs. Which courses would you recommend for Janet and Sam?

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5 a  7.2 Listen to the rest of the conversation and answer the questions.

- 1 What do Janet and Sam decide to do?
- 2 What reasons do they give for their decisions?

Grammar

NOTE!

Use “**could/couldn't**” for **general** ability.

However, **do not** use “**could**” for ability at a **specific** time in the past!

(“**I managed to...**”)

PRESENT
“**I know how to...**”

PAST
“**I knew how to...**”

SINGLE PAST EVENT
“**I managed to...**”

CAN / COULD (NOT) + BASE VERB

I **can (not)** speak English

You/We/They **can (not)** speak

He/She/It **can (not)** speak

I/He/She/It **could (not)** speak English

You/We/They **could (not)** speak

We ~~could~~ unlock the door *last night*.

We **could not** unlock the door *last night*.

BE ABLE TO + BASE VERB

I **am (not) able to** speak English

can/could is only used in the present or past! For other verb forms/tenses, we need **be able to**!

PRESENT PERFECT I ~~could~~ speak English for 5 years.

FUTURE I ~~will can~~ speak English in 5 years.

GERUND / INFINITIVE I like ~~can~~ speak English with my classmates

I need to ~~can~~ speak English for my job.

Complete the 2nd sentence with the correct form of “BE ABLE TO”:

- She **can drive** a car. → She _____ a car.
- We **could not solve** the problem. → We _____ the problem.
- He **can ride** a bike today and he **started riding** a bike **3 years ago**. → He _____ a bike for 3 years.
- They love **that they can swim** in the ocean. → They love _____ in the ocean.
- In the future, all people **will have the ability to speak** English. → In the future, all people _____ English.

Grammar

- 8 Complete the sentences with the correct form of **can** or **could**.
If “**can/could**” is **not** possible, use the correct form of “**be able to**”.

1. My brother _____ play the piano when he was eight.
2. After this course, I _____ speak English much better.
3. These days, not many people _____ make their own clothes!
4. I'd like to _____ speak Chinese.
5. I _____ read until I was six years old.
6. After lots of practice and several attempts, I _____ pass my driving test.

Modal verbs: ability

Use *can*, *could* and *be able to* to describe ability.

In the ¹present/past, use *can/can't* to say that you know or don't know how to do something.

I can speak French very well.

I can't play any instruments.

Also use *be able to* to talk about present abilities. This is less common than *can*.

I'm able to speak three languages fluently.

Use *could* or *was/were able to* for general ability in the ²past/future.

I could/was able to play the piano when I was younger.

I couldn't/wasn't able to swim until I was ten.

Use *was able to* to talk about ability to do a ³single action/repeated actions in the past.

The manager was there, so I was able to explain the problem to her.

I wasn't able to help my sister put up shelves.

Use *will be able to* for a future ability.

I'll be able to order food in Spanish.

Use a form of *be able to* with the present perfect and infinitive.

I've never been able to cook well.

I hope to be able to order a meal in French!

Grammar

9 a Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

1. I can't _____ but I'd like to learn.
2. I can _____ very well.
3. I couldn't _____ until I was _____.
4. I've always wanted to be able to _____.
5. If I _____, I'll be able to _____.
6. I hope to be able to _____ one day.
7. I wasn't able to _____ yesterday.
8. I'd love to be able to _____.

b Work in pairs and compare your sentences.