

# LESSON 1

## *the grammar you need*

The exercise is to be done and corrected in class.

### BE ABLE TO

Using **be able to** is very simple. We just have to conjugate the verb *to be*. Look at these examples. Notice that they are all in the present tense.

I live very close to school, so I'm able to walk there.

We're only 13, but we're able to cook dinner.

→ AFFIRMATIVE

Wait for me! I'm not able to run very fast.

→ NEGATIVE

Jim has a lot of after-school activities.

Is he able to do all of his chores?

→ INTERROGATIVE

Here's an example with **be able to** from the lesson. Notice that **be able to** is the same as *can*.

Thank goodness you're able to walk without crutches now.

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Thank goodness you can walk without crutches now.

Now look at this example from the lesson with **be able to** in the past tense.

It's a shame I **wasn't able to** play in the basketball tournament.

I know, but you're only a junior. You'll have another chance next year.



Note that we can write this sentence from the example two ways:

It's a shame I **wasn't able to** play in the basketball tournament.

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It's a shame I **couldn't** play in the basketball tournament.

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Take a look at this example with **be able to** in the future with **will**.



Here are some more examples with **will be able to**.

"Brian caught a cold last week, and he's still a bit weak. But I think he'll **be able to** play in the soccer tournament next month."

"That's good news."

"Look at the awesome camcorder I got for my birthday."

"Wow! You'll **be able to** make some cool movies with that."

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In the dialogues below, substitute *can/could* with the correct form of *to be able to*. Use contractions whenever possible. The first one is done for you.

1. “I’m so glad Dave **can** walk without crutches now.”

’s able to

“Yeah. But it’s a shame he **couldn’t** run in the track tournament last month.”

wasn’t able to

2. “It’s really cool that you and Grandma saw a lot of famous people while you were in Hollywood.”

“Too bad we **couldn’t** get off our tour bus to ask for their autographs.”

\_\_\_\_\_



3. “What a bummer you **couldn’t** join the soccer team.”

\_\_\_\_\_

“Yeah, but with my bad ankle, there’s just no way. The coach told me to try again next year.”



4. “When Dad was in high school, he **could** run a mile in under 5 minutes.”

\_\_\_\_\_

“But with his foot injury, he **can’t** run anymore. It’s just too painful.”

\_\_\_\_\_



## LESSON 2

### *the grammar you need*

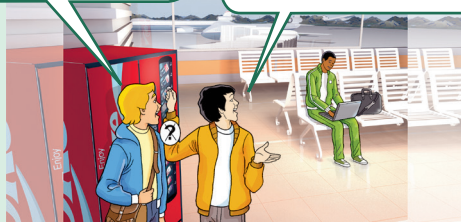
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#### NEGATIVE QUESTIONS

Take a look at this dialogue from the lesson.

Hey, **isn't** that Andy Jackson, the runner?

How would I know?



The boy on the left is asking a negative question. Negative questions are pretty common in English.

Now let's learn how we form negative questions. Look at these examples. (You'll learn how to form more negative questions in another lesson.)

Is that pretty girl your neighbor?	—————> SIMPLE QUESTION
Isn't that pretty girl your neighbor?	—————> NEGATIVE QUESTION

Are there any restrooms here?	—————> SIMPLE QUESTION
Aren't there any restrooms here?	—————> NEGATIVE QUESTION

Was the supermarket open Sunday night?	—————> SIMPLE QUESTION
Wasn't the supermarket open Sunday night?	—————> NEGATIVE QUESTION

Do you have a new shoulder bag?	—————> SIMPLE QUESTION
Don't you have a new shoulder bag?	—————> NEGATIVE QUESTION

Did Bill go to the last Olympic Games?	—————> SIMPLE QUESTION
Didn't Bill go to the last Olympic Games?	—————> NEGATIVE QUESTION

Can Mary push the shopping cart?	—————> SIMPLE QUESTION
Can't Mary push the shopping cart?	—————> NEGATIVE QUESTION

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#### REMEMBER THIS:

We usually use contracted forms to ask negative questions.

Here are some more examples with negative questions.



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Form negative questions in the dialogues below.  
The first one is done for you.

1. “Is that man your English teacher?”

“Isn’t that man your English teacher?”

“Yes. That’s Mr. Kennedy, all right—my English teacher.”

2. “Are there any family restrooms in this supermarket?”

“ there any family restrooms in this supermarket?”

“Yes, sir. There’s one to the left of the entrance.”



3. “Excuse me. Do you have any shoulder bags on sale?”

“Excuse me.  you have any shoulder bags on sale?”

“Yes, we do. They’re at the front of the store.”

4. “Can you give me a ride to school today, Mom?”

“ you give me a ride to school today, Mom?”

“Sorry, honey. I know it’s raining, but I’m late for work.”

5. “Was Aunt Sarah an athlete in college?”

“ Aunt Sarah an athlete in college?”

“She sure was. She even set several records in track events.”

