

## Can and be able to ★★

(★ = Basic ★★ = Intermediate ★★★ = Advanced)

### Grammar Bite

(read this)

What's the difference?

For definitions of words in CAPITALS,  
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#### Present time:

(same meaning, more or less FORMAL)



(INFORMAL)

(FORMAL)

#### Future time:

(different meanings)



("I'm giving you permission")



(Ability in the future)

### Worksheet

(do this)

**Think about the meaning of these sentences, then insert one of the phrases**

**can can't is able to 'll be able to**

1 a/b Teacher: "Right boys, you \_\_\_\_\_ leave now, you've got to stay here until 11, but you \_\_\_\_\_ at 11".

2 "I am pleased to hear that the company is progressing steadily, and under present conditions \_\_\_\_\_ produce over 10,000 widgets a month." (formal speech)

3 a/b "You must be patient. I know you \_\_\_\_\_ walk now, but in a few weeks you \_\_\_\_\_ walk really well."

**can can't are able to will be able to**

4 a/b "You \_\_\_\_\_ go into the head teacher's office, it's not allowed, but you \_\_\_\_\_ go into the teachers' room if you like."

5 a/b "You \_\_\_\_\_ speak much French yet, but after a year in France, you \_\_\_\_\_ speak really well."

6 a/b He \_\_\_\_\_ use Microsoft Word now, and in three weeks he \_\_\_\_\_ use Publisher.

7 "You \_\_\_\_\_ drive the car when you're eighteen" "I \_\_\_\_\_ wait!" "You'll have tio!"

8 The President is not well at present, but \_\_\_\_\_ attend the inauguration in July.

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