

YouGlish activity – *To be able to*

Student Worksheet

Step 1 – Explanation

The word cluster *be able to* has many different soundshapes, we will look at six of them in this activity. In British English the Greenhouse form is *TO BE ABle TO* |tu: bi: eɪb.əl tu:|, the Garden form is *tuh beyaybul tuh* |tə bi ˈeɪb.əl tə|. (That’s two soundshapes so far). But there are many of other sound shapes, four of which are: *to be ebble to*, *to be aboo to*, *to be al to* and *to be ell to*. (That makes six soundshapes).

Step 2 – Warm up

Practice saying these different sound shapes of *to be able to* using the speech unit below, replacing the underlined words with the different soundshapes listed above. Get faster and faster.

|| you NEED to be able to SWIM well ||

Step 3 – YouGlish Activity – online

Look at the last row in the table below. It contains four versions of the sound shapes of *to be able to*. Which of the versions of *to be able to* goes with which extract? Click on the words *to be able to* in each cell of Column 1 to hear each extract. Write the appropriate letter (A), (B), (C) or (D) in Column 2 of the table. Also write down, in Column 3, any other things you notice about each extract.

Table 24.1 YouGlish

	Column 1 word clusters	Column 2	Column 3 Comments
1	If you wanna keep your sanity, you have <u>to be able to</u> back away		
2	... need <u>to be able to</u> decide for what’s what and the best way to do that is understand		
3	They need <u>to be able to</u> adapt to situations		
4	They need <u>to be able to</u> put all those together		
(A) to be ebble to (B) to be aboo to (C) to be al to (D) to be ell to			

**This activity is an updating of the activity in Chapter 24.1 of
A Syllabus for Listening – Decoding (page 214)
 Level – Advanced – also suitable for Teacher Training.**