

YouGlish activity – *To be able to*

Teacher's notes

This activity needs to be done after the concepts of the Greenhouse, Garden, and Jungle have been introduced (cf. *A Syllabus for Listening – Chapter 2*), and students are familiar with the word-crusher (Chapter 20).

It can be done in either of two modes: (1) a whole class activity where you control the playback, and students have a paper worksheet; (2) pairwork in computer lab, where students have access to the internet. The links to the extracts are embedded in the text of the cells in column 1.

Answer Key

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

Below are some comments that students might make about each extract, and the soundscape around it.

- 1 US English.
 - The speaker seems to do a lip-closure for the |b| of *able*, but the effect of the lips is inaudible.
 - These words have prominences in the extract and the soundscape around it: *then, sanity, away*.
- 2 US English.
 - The speaker repeats the words *to be able to* and has a stepping stone 'ah' after the repetition of *to be able to*.
 - The transcript contains a mondegreen: the transcript has *decide for* but the speaker says the word *decipher*.
- 3 British English.
 - These words are less clear in the extract and the soundscape around it: *need, work, adapt situations*
- 4 Australian English
 - The speaker repeats the syllables *all those to-*.

This activity is an updating of the activity in Chapter 24.1 of *A Syllabus for Listening – Decoding* (page 214)