Week 10

Expressing and enquiring ability/inability to do something

Speaking-1. Sem1/2011 Siti Mahripah, M. App. Ling



Expressing ability

Neutral expressions

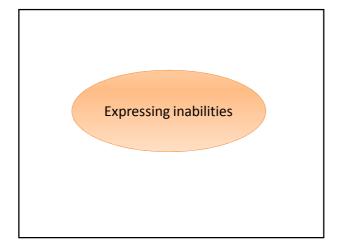
- 1. I can
- 2. It's not to difficult to
- 3. ... Is/are not too difficult.
- 4. I know how to
- 5. I know
- 6.I know something about
- 7.I might be able to

Informal expressions

8. I recon I can
9. I'm not too bad at
10. There's just a chance I can/could [sounds modest]
11. It's easy as pie!
12. It's a cinch!
13. It's a piece of cake!
14. I'm pretty good at

Formal expressions

- 15. I'd say I was capable of
- 16. I'm capable of . . .
- 17. I feel capable of . . .
- 18. I don't think that would prove too difficult
- 19. I have experience of
- 20. I'd say I was able to
- 21. I'm able to . . .
- 22. I feel able to . . .
- 23. (I think) I have the qualifications/experience (necessary)
- 24. (I think)I have the ability/abilities (necessary)



Neutral expressions

1. I can't
2. I don't know how to
3. I'm not sure I can/know how to
4. I don't know anything about

Informal expressions

5. I haven't got a clue how to
6. I've no idea how
7. I haven't the fainted/foggiest idea how
8. There is no way I can
9. I don't reckon I can
10. I wouldn't know where to begin/start
11. I'm hopeless at
12. I'm no good at
13. Sorry, I can't manage

Formal expressions

14. I'm not sure I am capable of ...
15. I don't feel capable of ...
16. (I think) that would prove too difficult ...
17. I don't feel I am able to ...
18. I would 't say I was able to ...
19. (I am afraid) ... might be beyond me.
20. (I am afraid) ... might be beyond my capabilities/abilities.
21. I have no experience of ...
22. I don't think I have the qualification/experience (necessary) ...
23. I don't think I have the ability/abilities (necessary) ...
24. (I'm afraid) I can't cope with ...

