

# 5

## Super me!

can/can't • was/were/could • Words that go together • Polite requests

### STARTER

Do you know the comic hero, Superman? Where does he come from? What can he do?

**T 5.1** Listen and compare your ideas.

### SUPERMAN IS FANTASTIC!

can/can't

- 1** Alfie and his cousin Ivy are talking about Superman.  
Complete what Alfie says using *can* and the verbs in the box.

**Alfie** Superman's fantastic!

**Ivy** Hmm! What **can** he **do**?

**Alfie** He **can do** everything!

**Ivy** No, he **can't**!

**Alfie** Yes, he **can**. He \_\_\_\_\_ at the speed of light, he \_\_\_\_\_  
through buildings, *and* he \_\_\_\_\_ every language in the world!

speaking    seeing    flying

**T 5.2** Listen and check.

- 2 T 5.3** Listen to the rest of the conversation. Answer the questions.

- Which languages do they talk about?
- Which sports do they talk about?

- 3** Complete the lines from the conversation with *can* or *can't* + verb.

1 ' Can you \_\_\_\_\_ any languages?'

'Yes, I can. I \_\_\_\_\_ French and Spanish.'

2 'You \_\_\_\_\_ French at all!'

3 'I \_\_\_\_\_ skateboard! You \_\_\_\_\_!'

4 ' \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_?'

'I \_\_\_\_\_ a bit, but my mum and dad \_\_\_\_\_ brilliantly.'

5 'Superman \_\_\_\_\_ everything. There's nothing  
Superman \_\_\_\_\_!'

**T 5.4** Listen and check. Practise the sentences with a partner.





## PRACTICE

### Ivy can't cook. Can you?

#### GRAMMAR AND PRONUNCIATION

- 1 Say all persons of *can* and *can't*. What do you notice?

I can, you can, he ..., she ..., it ..., we ..., they ...  
I can't, you ...

- 2 **T 5.5** Listen and repeat these sentences.

I **can** speak French. = /kən/  
**Can** you speak French? = /kən/  
Yes, I **can**. = /kæn/  
No, I **can't**. = /kɑ:nt/

- 3 Say these sentences.

• • • • •  
You can swim. I can't ski.

► Grammar Reference 5.1 p137

- 1 **T 5.6** Listen and complete the chart for Ivy. Put (✓) or (X).

Can ...?	Ivy	Your partner
speak a foreign language	✓	
cook	X	
skateboard		
swim		
play tennis		
ski		
play any musical instruments		

- 2 Work with a partner. Ask and answer questions about Ivy.

Can Ivy ... ?

Yes, she can. / No, she can't.

- 3 Complete the sentences about Ivy with adverbs from the box.

(not) at all (x2)	a (little) bit (x2)	quite well
very well	really well	brilliantly

- She can speak Spanish a little bit.
- She can't cook \_\_\_\_\_.
- She can swim \_\_\_\_\_.
- She can play tennis \_\_\_\_\_.
- She can ski \_\_\_\_\_.
- Her dad can play the guitar \_\_\_\_\_.
- Her mum can play the piano \_\_\_\_\_.
- She can't play anything \_\_\_\_\_.

- T 5.7** Listen and compare the sentences.

- 4 Ask questions to complete the chart in exercise 1 about your partner.

Can you speak Spanish?

Yes, but not very well.

- 5 Tell the class about you and your partner.

José can speak Spanish really well, but I can't.

- 6 **T 5.8** Listen and underline what you hear.

- She can / can't cook.
- I can / can't hear you.
- They can / can't come to the party.
- Can / Can't you see my glasses anywhere?
- You can / can't always get what you want.
- Can / Can't you do the homework?

- 7 With a partner, take turns saying the sentences. Say if you hear *can* or *can't*.





# TODAY AND YESTERDAY

Past – *was/were/could*

1 **T 5.9** Read and listen to the questions about the present and the past. Complete the answers.



Present	Past
1 What day is it today? It's _____.	What day was it yesterday? It was _____.
2 What month is it now? It's _____.	What month was it last month? It was _____.
3 Is it sunny today? _____, it is. / _____, it isn't.	Was it sunny yesterday? _____, it was. / _____, it wasn't.
4 Where are you now? I'm in/at _____.	Where were you yesterday? I was in/at _____.
5 Where are your parents now? They're in/at _____.	Where were they yesterday? They were in/at _____.
6 Are you in England now? _____, I am. / _____, I'm not.	Were you in England last year? _____, I was. / _____, I wasn't.
7 Can you ski? _____, I can. / _____, I can't.	Could you ski when you were five? _____, I could. / _____, I couldn't.
8 Can your teacher speak a lot of languages? Yes, _____ can. / No, _____ can't.	Could your teacher speak English when he/she was seven? Yes, _____ could. / No, _____ couldn't.



## GRAMMAR AND PRONUNCIATION

1 Complete the Past Simple of *to be*.

	Positive	Negative
I	<u>was</u>	<u>wasn't</u>
you	<u>were</u>	<u>weren't</u>
he/she/it	_____	_____
we	<u>were</u>	_____
they	_____	_____

2 What is the past of *can*? Positive Negative  
I/you/he/she/it/we/they \_\_\_\_\_

3 **T 5.10** Listen and repeat the sentences.

▶▶ Grammar Reference 5.2 – 5.3 p137

2 Ask and answer the questions about the past in exercise 1 with a partner.

What day was it yesterday?

It was ...

3 Complete the sentences with the past of the verb *to be* and *can*.

- I wasn't at school yesterday because I \_\_\_\_\_ ill.
- My parents \_\_\_\_\_ at work last week. They \_\_\_\_\_ on holiday in Spain.
- Where \_\_\_\_\_ you last night? I phoned, but you \_\_\_\_\_ at home.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ read and write when I \_\_\_\_\_ just five.
- My sister \_\_\_\_\_ read until she \_\_\_\_\_ seven.

## Talking about you

4 Work with a partner. Ask and answer questions about you.

- at 8.00 this morning
- at 10.00 last night
- at this time yesterday
- last Saturday evening
- last Sunday morning

Where were you at 8.00 this morning?

I was at home/in bed/  
at work/in town ...

# PRACTICE

## Child prodigies

- 1 Look at the photos. Who are the children?  
What can they do? Why are they 'child prodigies'?



Marc Yu



Cleopatra Stratan

- 2 **T 5.11** Listen and complete the sentences about Marc Yu.  
Read them aloud.

### Marc Yu – Pianist

- He was born on January \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_\_, in California, USA.
  - He \_\_\_\_\_ the piano and the cello.
  - He \_\_\_\_\_ the piano when he \_\_\_\_\_.
  - He \_\_\_\_\_ the cello when he \_\_\_\_\_.
- Last year, he played with Lang Lang, the famous Chinese pianist, in New York. They \_\_\_\_\_ a big success.

- 3 Work with a partner. Look at the information and make sentences about Cleopatra.

### Cleopatra Stratan – Singer

- She/born/October 7th, 2002/Moldova, near Romania.
- She/sing beautifully when/just two years old.
- When/three, she made an album, *La vârsta de trei ani*.
- Her album/a big success. 150,000/sold round the world.

**T 5.12** Listen and check.

- 4 Ask and answer questions about Marc and Cleopatra.
- When / born?
  - Where / born?
  - How old / when / could ...?

## Listening

- 5 Pablo Picasso was also a child prodigy. Read and complete the conversation about him.

### Pablo Picasso

25 October 1881–8 April 1973

- A Hey, look at that painting! It's a Picasso!
- B Oh yes! Fantastic!
- A Where <sup>1</sup> was Picasso born ?
- B In Málaga.
- A Ah! So he <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish?
- B Yes, he <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.
- A <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ his parents rich?
- B Well, they <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ rich and they <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ poor. His father, Don José, <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a painter and a professor of art. His mother, Doña Maria, <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a housewife.
- A So, <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Picasso good at drawing when he <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ young?
- B Oh, yes. He <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a child prodigy. He <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ draw before he <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ speak. His first word <sup>14</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ *lápiz*, which is Spanish for *pencil*.
- A Wow! What a story!



**T 5.13** Listen and check. Practise the conversation.

## Talking about you

Work in groups. Ask and answer the questions about you.

- When/born?
- Where/born?
- Where/parents born?
- How old were you when you could ... ?
  - walk • talk • read • swim • ride a bike
  - use a computer • speak a foreign language

► **WRITING** A formal email p108



## READING AND SPEAKING

### A talented family

- 1 Do you have any talented people in your family? What can they do?
- 2 Look at the pictures of Nicola Benedetti and her father, Gio. Read the introduction to the article. Answer the questions.
  - 1 What does Nicola do?
  - 2 Why was 2004 special for her?
  - 3 Where does she live?
  - 4 What does her sister do?
  - 5 What does her father do?
- 3 Work in two groups.

**Group A** Read about **Nicola**. Answer these questions.

- 1 Was music important in her family?
- 2 How old was Nicola when she could play the violin?
- 3 Did her father work hard?
- 4 Were her grandparents rich or poor?
- 5 Is money important to Nicola and her father?
- 6 Does her father like classical music?
- 7 What does she teach her father? What does he teach her?
- 8 When does she play the violin with her sister?

**Group B** Read about **Gio**. Answer these questions.

- 1 Where was Gio born?
- 2 Why couldn't he buy the Jaguar car?
- 3 What was Gio's business?
- 4 How old was Nicola when she could play the violin?
- 5 Can Gio play a musical instrument?
- 6 What music does he like? What doesn't he like?
- 7 Does Nicola work hard?
- 8 Why does he cry?

- 4 Work with a partner from the other group. Tell your partner about your person.

### Language work

- 5 Who or what do these adjectives from the text refer to?

busy	important	difficult	proud
hard-working	classical	expensive	passionate
poor	close	independent	sentimental

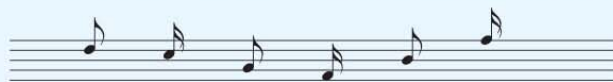
*Nicola's father was always busy.*

### What do you think?

Work as a class. Discuss the questions.

- Do Nicola and Gio have a good relationship?
- How are they similar? How are they different?
- Does Nicola have a good relationship with her sister?
- What about *your* family? Who are you close to? Why?

# A PASSION FOR SUCCESS



Nicola Benedetti is a world-famous violinist. She was the BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2004 when she was 16. She lives in Chiswick, west London, near her sister, Stephanie, who is also a violinist. Their father, Gio Benedetti, is a businessman. He lives with his wife, Francesca, in Scotland.





# Nicola Benedetti

A PASSION FOR

*Music*



• When I was young, music wasn't very important in our house. Then, when I was four, I started playing the violin. In my first lesson, I was so happy, I couldn't stop crying.

My dad, Gio, was always busy. He was very hard-working. His parents were poor, so he wanted to give me and my sister everything. I like hard work too, and I know what I want – if someone says to me “You can't do that”, I think “Oh yes I can!” That's very like my dad.

But my dad's a businessman, and I'm an artist. Money is very important to him, but for me, success isn't the same as earning lots of money. He likes the music I play, but he doesn't like classical music very much. I teach him about music, and he tells me about business.

My sister and I are very close. We sometimes play together – not professionally, but at family occasions like weddings and at Christmas.

I live for my work. I never want to stop.  
Music is my life. •



# Gio Benedetti

A PASSION FOR

**Business**



• I was born in a small village near Lucca in Italy. We were poor but happy. When I was ten, I came to Scotland to live with my uncle. It was very difficult.

When I was 16, there was a beautiful car – a Jaguar – in the shops but I couldn't afford it. It was too expensive. So I started a business to make money – a dry-cleaning business. Soon there were 15 shops. By the time I was 19, I could afford the Jaguar. That was a very good day!

Nicola was always independent, like me. She could play the violin when she was four. Now she plays concerts all over the world. I am so proud of her. She practises for seven hours a day. Scotland is so proud of her. Everybody knows her now.

I can't play any musical instruments. I like country and western music, but not classical. Nicola knows what she wants. She has a passion to succeed, like me, and she works very hard to get it. When she plays the violin, she's passionate – that's the Italian in her. When I see her play, I often cry. I can't help it. I'm very sentimental. •





# VOCABULARY AND LISTENING

## Words that go together

### Noun + noun

- 1 Match a noun in A with a noun in B.  
Do we write one word or two?

*post office      businessman*

A	B
book	room
motor (x2)	shop/store
sun	station (x2)
living	park
bus	way
hand	bike
railway	lights
car	stop
traffic	glasses
petrol	bag

- 2 Test the other students on the nouns that go together.

*This is where we buy books.*

*A book shop.*

- 3 **T 5.14** Listen to three conversations. Write all the noun + noun combinations you hear.

1 post office, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

- 4 With a partner, write a short conversation. Include some noun + noun combinations. Act your conversation to the class.



### Verb + noun

- 5 Match a verb with a noun.

verb	noun
send	a car
drive	children
ride	a lot of text messages
speak	a suit and tie
earn	TV a lot
live	three languages
play	a motorbike
wear	on the third floor
look after	a lot of money
watch	the guitar

- 6 Ask and answer questions.

*Do you send a lot of text messages?*

*No, I don't.*

*Do you earn a lot of money?*

*Don't be silly! Of course not!*

- 7 **T 5.15** Listen to the short conversations. After each one say which verb + noun combinations you hear.

- 8 Work with a partner. Look at **T 5.15** on p123. Choose two of the conversations and learn them by heart.

### Prepositions

- 9 Complete the sentences with a preposition from the box.

of to from on at with for

- Do you like listening to music?
- What sort \_\_\_\_\_ music do you like?
- Where's your girlfriend \_\_\_\_\_? Is she Mexican?
- Is Paula married \_\_\_\_\_ Mike?
- Do you want to come shopping \_\_\_\_\_ me?
- Were there any good programmes \_\_\_\_\_ television last night?
- What do you want \_\_\_\_\_ your birthday?
- Can I speak \_\_\_\_\_ Dave? Is he \_\_\_\_\_ work today?

- T 5.16** Listen and check. What are the replies? Practise the conversations.

# EVERYDAY ENGLISH

## Polite requests

1 **T 5.17** Listen and complete the conversations. Where are the people?



2 What differences are there in A's requests in exercise 1?

- 1 *Can/Could I ...?* and *Can/Could you ...?* express a request.  
*Can/Could I* ask you a question?  
*Can/Could you* do something for me?
- 2 *Can/Could* express an ability.  
I **can** swim./I **could** swim when I was four.

3 **T 5.18** Listen and repeat the requests.  
Notice how the intonation falls and rises.



*Can I have a coffee, please?*      *Could you tell me the time, please?*

Practise the conversations in exercise 1.

4 Complete the requests with *Can/Could I ...?* or *Can/Could you ...?*

- 1 Can I \_\_\_\_\_ have a cheese sandwich, please?
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ post this letter for me, please?
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ give me your email address?
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ speak to you for a moment?
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ lend me £20 till tomorrow?
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ give me a hand with this box?

**T 5.19** Listen and compare. Can you remember the replies?  
Practise with a partner.

5 Have more conversations with some of these prompts.

- a cola      pay by credit card
- the bill      a vanilla ice-cream
- a glass of water      a return ticket
- borrow your dictionary      do me a favour
- try on these jeans      sit next to you
- give me a lift      open the window

Can I have a cola, please?

Sure. Here you are.

Of course. Diet or regular?

Sorry. We don't have any cola.