

## Can and Have to: form and common errors

### Be careful!

It **has to** close at 4:00.  
NOT ~~It has to closes.~~  
NOT ~~It has to closing.~~

Does he **have to** go?  
NOT ~~Does he have to goes?~~  
NOT ~~Does he has to go?~~

### Be careful! Use **can** with the base form of a verb.

She **can play** golf very well.      **Can he play** tennis?  
NOT ~~She can plays.~~      NOT ~~Can he plays?~~  
NOT ~~She can to play.~~      NOT ~~Can he to play?~~

There are three negative forms of **can**.

He **can't** swim. = He **cannot** swim. = He **can not** swim.

### Remember:

I  
You      **have to go** to class at 9:00.  
They  
We  
She  
He      **has to go** to class at 8:00.

### A Correct the sentences.

- Can they ~~coming~~ <sup>come</sup> to the movie next week?
- My mother-in-law have to go shopping this afternoon.
- My cousin can't plays soccer tomorrow.
- Does he has to meet his niece at the airport?
- We're going to the beach this weekend, but I no can swim.
- Alex can to go out for dinner tonight.
- She doesn't have to working late tomorrow.  
She cans go out for dinner.
- Can he visits his in-laws next weekend?
- You have to filling out an application for your English class.
- Do we have to studying now? We're watching TV.

## Can and have to: information questions

### Can

Where **can I play** soccer around here? (Try the park.)  
When **can they come** for lunch? (After class.)  
How often **can we go** running? (Any time. Our afternoons are free.)  
What languages **can she speak**? (She can speak Italian and Russian.)

### Have to

What **does he have to do** tomorrow? (He has to go shopping.)  
How often **does she have to work** late? (Not often.)  
When **do they have to buy** the tickets? (This afternoon.)  
Where **do you have to go** this morning? (To the airport.)

### Be careful! See the difference when **Who** is the object or the subject.

Who **can John visit** on the weekend? He can visit **his cousins**. (object)  
Who **can visit** his cousins on the weekend? **John** can. (subject)  
Who **do you have to call**? I have to call **my boss**. (object)  
Who **has to write** the report? **My boss** does. (subject)

### B Complete the questions, using the cues and **can**.

- A: ..... basketball?  
(where / I / play)  
B: Try the school. It isn't far.
- A: ..... dinner?  
(when / we / have)  
B: How about tomorrow night?
- A: ..... walking?  
(where / I / go)  
B: You can go to the park. It's very nice.
- A: ..... ?  
(how often / you / exercise)  
B: Not as much as I'd like to. I'm too busy.
- A: ..... breakfast?  
(who / make)  
B: What about Bill? He wakes up early.
- A: ..... with about classes?  
(who / I / speak)  
B: The receptionist can help you.

**C** Complete the questions and answers, using a form of have to.

1 A: ..... he ..... (do) tomorrow?

B: He ..... (go) to class.

2 A: ..... she ..... (call) the office?

B: She ..... (call) every morning.

3 A: ..... he ..... (go) to the airport?

B: He ..... (leave) here at 3:00.

4 A: ..... they ..... (send) the form to?

B: They can't send it. They ..... (take) it to the office.

5 A: ..... you ..... (meet) after class?

B: I ..... (meet) my sister. We're going to the movies.

6 A: ..... (help) the teacher after class?

B: Chris and Tania. They ..... (clean) the board.

### **Can and be able to: present and past forms**

You can also use be able to + base form for ability or possibility. Can is more frequent in spoken language.

I can play the violin. = I'm able to play the violin. (ability)

Bill can meet you at six. = Bill is able to meet you at six. (possibility)

He can't swim. = He isn't able to swim. (ability)

They can't call this afternoon. = They aren't able to call this afternoon. (possibility)

Use could or was / were able to + base form to talk about the past.

When I was four I could ride a bike (or was able to ride a bike).

They could speak (or were able to speak) French before they were ten.

She couldn't be (or wasn't able to be) there yesterday because she had a meeting.

We couldn't understand (or weren't able to understand) the directions.

**Be careful!** Use was / were able to (NOT could) for affirmative past statements of possibility.

She was able to be there yesterday. NOT She could be there yesterday.

**D** On a separate sheet of paper, change can to be able to in the sentences.

1 She can swim very well.

4 George can meet you at the airport.

2 They can't ride a bicycle.

5 Lucy can't take the bus to the mall.

3 I can't finish this report today.

6 We can call you before the meeting.

**E** On a separate sheet of paper, change the statements from the present to the past. More than one correct answer may be possible.

1 We're able to help him.

4 Nicole can cook for the party.

2 The Martins can't go to the concert.

5 Rachel and Brooke aren't able to play basketball at the school.

3 She is able to be there at seven.

## **UNIT 6 Lesson 2**

### **The simple present tense: non-action verbs**

Some verbs are non-action verbs. Most non-action verbs are not usually used in the present continuous, even when they are describing something that is happening right now.

I want a sandwich. NOT I am wanting a sandwich.

Some non-action verbs have action and non-action meanings.

non-action meaning

I have two sandwiches. (possession)

I think English is easy. (opinion)

action meaning

I'm having a sandwich. (eating)

I'm thinking about her. (the act of thinking)

#### **Some non-action verbs**

be	miss
have	need
know	see
like	understand
love	want



**A** Complete the message. Use the simple present tense or the present continuous form of the verbs.

Hi Keith,  
It's 2:00, and I ..... (1 think) of you. The kids ..... (2 play)  
outside. I ..... (3 see) them through the window right now. They  
..... (4 have) a small table and chairs, and they .....  
(5 have) a late lunch. I ..... (6 want) to send this before I go to work.  
I ..... (7 know) you're working hard, and we all .....  
(8 miss) you.  
Maggie

### The simple present tense: placement of frequency adverbs

Frequency adverbs generally go after the verb **be** and before other verbs.

I **am usually** at the pool on Saturdays.

I **usually go** to the pool on Saturdays.

**Sometimes, usually, often, generally, and occasionally** can also go at the beginning or end of a sentence.

**Sometimes** I go to the mall on Saturdays.

I go to the pool **occasionally**.

**Be careful!** Don't use **never** or **always** at the beginning or end of a sentence.

Don't say: ~~Never I go to the pool.~~ OR ~~I go to the pool always.~~

In negative sentences, most frequency adverbs can go before or after **don't** or **doesn't**.

Hank **usually doesn't** go running on the weekend.

Hank **doesn't usually** go running on the weekend.

**Be careful!** The frequency adverb **always** cannot go before **don't** or **doesn't**.

I **don't always** have breakfast in the morning. NOT ~~I always don't~~ have breakfast in the morning.

**Be careful!** Use the frequency adverb **never** or **not + ever** to form the negative. Don't use **never** with a negative verb.

I **never eat** sweets. OR I **don't ever** eat sweets. NOT ~~I don't never eat~~ sweets.

### Time expressions

Time expressions generally go at the beginning or end of a sentence. When a time expression is at the beginning, a comma is optional. Don't use a comma when the time expression is at the end.

**Three times a week**, I go to the pool.

I go to the pool **three times a week**.

The time expression **a lot** goes at the end of a sentence.

I go to the pool **a lot**. NOT ~~A lot I go to the pool.~~

#### Some time expressions

every week  
every other day  
once a month  
twice a year  
three times a week

#### Other expressions

once in a while  
a lot

**B** On a separate sheet of paper, rewrite the sentences correctly.

1 She plays usually golf on Sunday.

2 They go to the park hardly ever.

3 I always am hungry in the afternoon.

4 We once in a while have eggs for breakfast.

5 Penny doesn't never exercise.

6 Never I go swimming at night.

7 Vivian doesn't drink always coffee.

8 Corey and I play twice a week tennis together.

9 We go often bike riding in the afternoon.

10 She is every day late for class.