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```
author_can( int|WP_Post $post, string $capability, mixed $args ): bool
```

Returns whether the author of the supplied post has the specified capability.

### Description

This function also accepts an ID of an object to check against if the capability is a meta capability. Meta capabilities such as `edit_post` and `edit_user` are capabilities used by the `map_meta_cap()` function to map to primitive capabilities that a user or role has, such as `edit_posts` and `edit_others_posts`.

Example usage:

wp-includes/capabilities.php

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```
author_can( $post, 'edit_posts' );
author_can( $post, 'edit_post', $post->ID );
author_can( $post, 'edit_post_meta', $post->ID, $meta_key );
```

### Parameters

**\$post**`int|WP_Post`required

Post ID or post object.

**\$capability**`string`required

Capability name.

**\$args**`mixed`optional

Optional further parameters, typically starting with an object ID.

### Return

`bool` Whether the post author has the given capability.

### Source

wp-includes/capabilities.php

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```
function author_can( $post, $capability, ...$args ) {
    $post = get_post( $post );
    if ( ! $post ) {
        return false;
    }
}
```

```
$author = get_userdata( $post->post_author );

if ( ! $author ) {
    return false;
}

return $author->has_cap( $capability, ...$args );
```

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Uses

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wp-includes/pluggable.php
- [get\\_post\(\)](#)  
wp-includes/post.php

Changelog

Version	Description
<a href="#">5.3.0</a>	Formalized the existing and already documented ...\$args parameter by adding it to the function signature.
<a href="#">2.9.0</a>	Introduced.

User Contributed Notes

Codex8 years ago

Example

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```
if ( author_can( $post->ID, 'publish_posts' ) ) {
    echo __( 'Yes they can publish posts!', 'textdomain' );
}
```

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