



Bilecik Şeyh Edebali University
Department of Foreign Languages



ENG102
Week 8
15 – 19 April 2024

Week – 8

This week we will learn

Verb Phrases

Can and could

How to use these modals to express **ability, request, permission, and possibility**

Verb Phrases

Dance
Meet
Remember
Take
Use
Play
Pay
Have
Change
Ride
Speak

by credit card
the guitar
the tango
the Internet
someone
someone's name
a coffee
money
a bicycle
photos
four languages

Dance the tango
Meet someone
Remember someone's name
Take photos
Use the Internet
Play the guitar
Pay by credit card
Have a coffee
Change money
Ride a bicycle
Speak four languages

Verb Phrases

Exercises

dance take play ride use have meet remember change speak

1. Jessica is 5 years old and she can ride a bicycle.
2. We have Internet connection, so you can use the Internet.
3. You can't take photos in museums.
4. A: Can I change some money, please? B: Of course, ma'am.
5. A: I can't meet you today because I'm very busy.
B: When can we have a coffee, then?
6. A: Grandma, could you dance the tango when you were young?
B: Yes sweetheart.
7. Joe couldn't play the guitar 5 years ago, but now he can.
8. I saw her at school yesterday but couldn't remember her name.
9. Max is so smart. He could speak four languages when he was 10.

Can

Affirmative & Negative

Affirmative		
I	can	
We		play the guitar.
You		sit here.
They		help us.
He		eat out.
She		
It		

Negative		
I	cannot can't	
We		play the guitar.
You		sit here.
They		help us.
He		eat out.
She		
It		

Can

Examples



Julia **can** speak four languages.



I **can** cook dinner today.

can't dance



You **cannot / can't** take photos here.



Michael **cannot /**

Can

Question

Yes / No Questions		
Can	I	play the guitar? sit here? help us? eat out?
	we	
	you	
	they	
	he	
	she	
	it	

WH- Questions			
When	can	I	
What		we	play the guitar?
Why		you	sit here?
How		they	help us?
What time		he	eat out?
Who		she	
		it	

Yes, I / we / you / they / he / she / it can

No, I / we / you / they / he / she / it can't

Can

Examples



A: I'm sorry. I'm late. **Can** I come in?

B: Of course. / Yes, you **can**.



A: **Can** Jenny join us tomorrow?

B: No, he **can't**. / No. He is busy.



A: When **can** you check my paper?

B: Next Friday.



A: Where **can** I sit?

B: You **can** sit over there.

Can

Can + infinitive has different meanings. We use **can** to say that something is **possible** or **allowed**, or that somebody has the **ability** to do something.

Ability:

(+) I can run fast.

(-) I can't type fast (**inability**).

(-) They can't dance the Tango. (They **don't have the ability**).

(+) We can lift 20 kilos together. It's **a piece of cake** for us.

(Meaning of the idiom: Something easily done)

(?) A: Can you speak English?

B: Yes, I can, but not fluently.

Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=facQiZDrU4&t=2s&ab_channel=Elli%28formerlyESLLibrary%29



Can

Request:

Dialogue 1 A: Can you please listen to me?

B: Sure, I'm **all ears**. Tell me what happened.

(Meaning of the idiom: To listen eagerly)

Dialogue 2 A: Breonna wants to buy some chocolate, but I don't have any change. Can you **break a fifty** please?

B: Sorry Ashley. I left my money at home.

(Break an amount of money: exchanging it for smaller amounts)

Remember: To form questions, we put *can* before the subject.

Can

Permission

We also use *can* to **ask for** or **give permission**.

To ask for permission:

A: I am sorry. I am late. Can I come in?

B: Yes, you can, but be more careful next time.

To give permission:

A: I don't have a pen.

B: You can use mine.

Can

Permission

Asking for permission:

A: Can I borrow your car for the weekend?

B: Sure, but don't drive fast.

Some other examples expressing permission:

- You can't park here. (You are **not allowed** to park here)
- You can't leave your bicycle there.
- You can go home now.

Can

Possibility:

We also use *can* to express **possibility**.

- A: Sorry sir, no cash here. B: No problem. I can pay by credit card.

(It is possible for me to do it.)

- Judy can meet me after work.

(It is possible for her to do it)

- We can't visit you on Saturday.

(It isn't possible for us to do it)

- Sorry. I can't stay longer. I have an appointment.

- *(It isn't possible for me to do it.)*

Exercises

What meaning does *can* have in these sentences?

Inability

She can't sing.

Possibility

I can help you with your homework.

Ability

He can play the guitar.

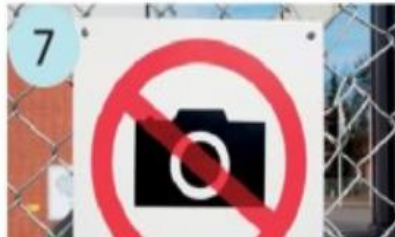
Request

Can you be quiet please?

Permission

You can borrow my car.

Exercises



What do these signs mean?

1. (swim) You can't swim here.
2. (pay) **You can pay by credit card here.**
3. (use) **You can't use your mobile phone here.**
4. (park) **You can park here.**
5. (have) **You can have a coffee here.**
6. (use) **You can use the Internet here.**
7. (take) **You can't take photos here.**
8. (play) **You can't play football here.**
9. (change) **You can change money here.**
10. (drive fast) **You can't drive fast here.**

Could (Past Ability)

We use **could** to talk about **past ability**.

I could do something means: I knew how to do it, or it was possible for me to do it.

- When I **was** young, I **could** run fast.
- She **couldn't** lift the suitcase because it **was** heavy.
- A: **Could** he swim well when he **was** a child?
- B: Yes, he **could**. / No, **he couldn't**.
- She **could** speak four languages when she **was** 10.
- I **was** tired last night, but I **couldn't** sleep.

Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Lo6RPWiEYI&ab_channel=Ellii%28formerlyESLLibrary%29



Exercises

Match the sentence halves

1-I couldn't go to the party last night

2- My sister couldn't swim last year,

3- Most dinosaurs walked on land,

4- Douglas hit the tree

5- I could drive a truck

6- They couldn't go shopping yesterday

7- A: Could you read when you were four?

1 (.....) a. because I was sick.

(**2**.) b. but now she can.

6 (.....) c. because the store was closed.

7 (.....) d. B: Yes, I could.

(**3**.) e. but some could fly or swim.

5 (.....) f. when I was sixteen.

4 (.....) g. because he couldn't stop his car.

Exercises

Complete these sentences using **can / can't** or **could / couldn't** + one of these verbs.

play X2

visit

ride

see

cook

drive

1. A: **Could** you **see** the moon last night? B: No, I **couldn't**.
2. A: Jack is living in Italy. **Can** he **cook** Italian food? B: Yes, he **can**.
3. Ellen **couldn't play** the guitar last year, but now she **can (play)**.
4. I **couldn't visit** you yesterday because I was very busy.
5. A: **Could** you **drive** when you were 16? B: Yes, I **could**.
6. Ellie **can ride** a bicycle. She rides it to school every day.
7. I'm very tired, so I **can't play** with you now.

Rethink the Day: Modal Verbs Can/Could

Here is a summary table of what we have covered today:

Modal Verb	Function	Example
Can	Ability/Inability Request Permission Possibility	I can swim / He can't drive. Can you help me? You can borrow my dictionary. People can get rude sometimes.
Could	Past ability	I could swim when I was 5.

Let's practice *can/can't/could/couldn't* and some present and past tense for *to be*:

<https://en.islcollective.com/video-lessons/presto-cancould>

SONG

By Shawn Mendes - *If I Can't Have You*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6_9CF1ucol

Song Lyrics

I can't write one song that's not about you
Can't drink without thinkin' about you
Is it too late to tell you that
Everything means nothing if I can't have you?

I'm in Toronto and I got this view
But I might as well be in a hotel room, yeah
It doesn't matter 'cause I'm so consumed
Spending all my nights reading texts from you

Oh, I'm good at keepin' my distance
I know that you're the feelin' I'm missing
You know that I hate to admit it
But everything means nothin' if I can't have you

I can't write one song that's not about you
Can't drink without thinkin' about you
Is it too late to tell you that
Everything means nothing if I can't have you?
I can't write one song that's not about you
Can't drink without thinkin' about you

Is it too late to tell you that
Everything means nothing if I can't have you?

I'm so sorry that my timing's off
But I can't move on if we're still gonna talk
Is it wrong for me to not want half?
I want all of you, all the strings attached

Oh, I'm good at keepin' my distance

Week – 8

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Verb Phrases

Can and could

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goodbye

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK.
