

Modal verbs of ability, requests and advice

GRAMMAR

LEVEL
Lower-intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_2337G

LANGUAGE
English

lingoda





Goals

- Can correctly form short sentences with 'can', 'could' and 'should'.
- Can determine when to use 'can' or 'could'.







Preview and warm-up

In this lesson, you are going to practise using the **modal verbs** *can*, *could* and *should* in the context of **job interviews**.



I **can** speak very good English.



Modal verbs: the basics



Look at the table below. Do you **remember** these **rules** about **modal verbs**?

Modal verbs are auxiliary verbs	We do not use them alone, we use them with a main verb
Two modal verbs cannot be used together	NOT: I can should...
Modal verbs have only one form	There are no changes for 3 rd person, tenses or <i>ing</i> forms
To make a question, we put the modal in front of the subject	Can I...?



Can

Let's look at the **modal verb can** to see these rules in context.
Can is used to talk about **ability** or something we are **able to do**.

Subject	Modal verb	Main verb
I	can	speak German well.
He	can	use Excel.
We	can	drive.
They	can	manage this project.



Can't

Can't is the **negative** of *can*. Here are some examples.



I can't speak German but I want to learn.

I can't use Excel well so I need to do some training.



John can't manage a large group of people.



Questions with *can*

Here are some **questions** with the **modal verb** *can*.

Can you	speak German?
Can John	work independently?
Can you	use Wordpress?
Can you	write in English?





Find the mistakes

Find the mistakes in each sentence and correct them.

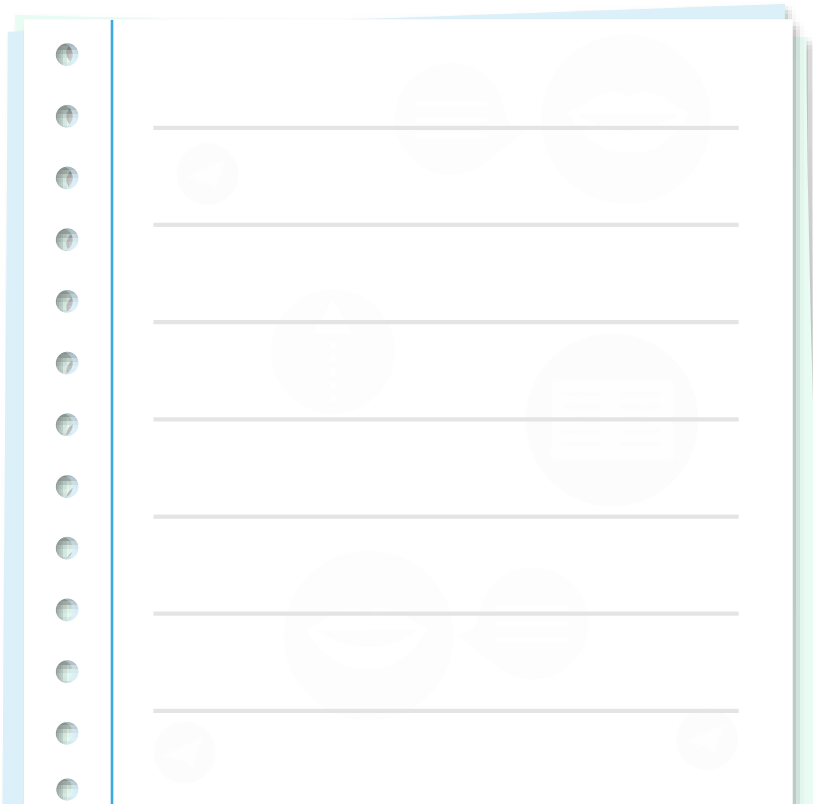
1. I can using Microsoft Office.
2. Julia cans speak Spanish.
3. Allan can't not speak French.
4. Can you managed a big group of people?
5. You can drive?





What can you do?

**Write down three things that you can do that are related to your job.
Share what you wrote with your partner**





What can they do?

What do you think these people can do in their jobs?
Is there anything you think they can't do?



An accountant



A hotel receptionist



An engineer



A doctor



Can and *could* for requests

We use the **modal verbs** *can* and *could* to **ask people** to **do something**. They take the **same form** in **questions**. Look at these examples.

Can	Could
Can you repeat that?	Could you repeat that?
Can you tell me a bit about yourself?	Could you tell me a bit about yourself?
Can you tell me about your experience managing a team?	Could you tell me about your experience managing a team?



Can and could



Could is more **formal** and more **polite** than **can**.



Could you repeat the question, please?



Can and *could* for permission

We also use the **modal verbs** *can* and *could* to ask for **permission**.
Look at these examples.

Can	Could
Can I tell you about my degree?	Could I tell you about my degree?
Can I ask about the salary?	Could I ask about the salary?
Can I be excused for a moment?	Could I be excused for a moment?



Rearrange the words to form questions

1. ask/can/benefits/I/the/about?

→ Can I ask about the benefits?

2. tell/a/yourself/could/me/bit/you/about?

→ _____

3. that/repeat/please/can/you?

→ _____

4. excused/a/be/can/moment/I/for?

→ _____

5. your/tell/could/about/team/you/management/experience/a?

→ _____



Writing

Write three questions an interviewer might ask with *can* or *could*. Use the topics below

experience with Google Docs

paid leave you expect

your previous colleagues

A spiral-bound notebook with lined pages. The pages are white with light blue horizontal ruling. There are faint, large circular icons on the pages, including a play button, a document, and a speech bubble. The notebook is shown from a slightly elevated angle, with the spiral binding visible on the left side.



Can you get me a coffee?

Imagine you are your boss for one day. What kind of requests would you make? Think of three and tell your classmates what you imagined

- Think about requests like meetings and project deadlines
- And think of one silly request your boss might make!





Should

The **modal verb *should*** is used to **give an opinion** about what is a **good** or a **bad thing** to do.

Look at these examples:

A good worker	should	be reliable.
A great marketing manager	should	have good analytical skills.
A team leader	should	have good communication skills.



Giving advice with *should*

Should is also used to **give advice**. Look at these examples.

You should	prepare well for a job interview.
You should	practise your English before an interview.
You should	think before you answer difficult questions.



Shouldn't

The **negative** form of *should* is *should not* or *shouldn't*.

Look at these examples:



You **shouldn't** wear jeans to a job interview.

A team leader **shouldn't** shout at his team.





Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences with your own ideas. Then compare your answers with your classmates.

1. In my job, I should be...
2. In my job, I shouldn't be...
3. A good boss should...
4. A good boss shouldn't...



Speaking

What should these people be like? What kind of skills should they have to do their jobs well?





Brainstorm

With your classmates, think of some general advice for people who are going to a job interview. What should and shouldn't they do?

Advice for
job
interviews





Advice

Using the ideas from the previous page, give a short presentation to your teacher about what people should and should not do in a job interview





Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key

Exercise p. 15

2. Could you tell me a bit about yourself? 3. Can you repeat that please? 4. Can I be excused for a moment? 5. Could you tell me about your experience managing a team?

Exercise p. 9

1. I can use, 2. Julia can speak, 3. Allan can't speak, 4. Can you manage, 5. Can you drive





Match the beginnings and the endings

1. I can speak

a. analytical.

2. Jaime can handle...

b. a suit to a job interview.

3. Could you tell me...

c. excused for a moment?

4. Can I be...

d. a large number of requests.

5. In my job I should be...

e. angry with their employees.

6. Managers shouldn't get

f. French.

7. You should wear...

g. about the degree you studied?



Writing advice

Write your six best pieces of advice for a successful job interview using should and shouldn't.

○	
○	
○	
○	
○	
○	
○	
○	
○	
○	
○	
○	
○	
○	
○	
○	



Homework answer key

Exercise p. 29

1. F, 2. D, 3. G, 4. C, 5. A, 6. E, 7. B

