

Can and can't

GRAMMAR

LEVEL
Beginner

NUMBER
EN_BE_1233G

LANGUAGE
English





Goals

- Can recognise and understand how to use the forms can and can't to talk about abilities
- Can form basic sentences using can and can't to talk about my abilities with colleagues







Preview and warm-up

- In this lesson, you will learn the verb **can** and its uses.



Can you hear me now?



Using the verb *can*

- Use **can** + another **verb** to talk about your abilities
- The form of **can** stays the same for every pronoun

pronoun + can	ability
I can...	speak English.
You can...	send an email.
They can...	see you.



Asking a question with *can*

When asking a question, ***can*** comes first, and the **subject** comes second.

Statement	Question
I can speak English.	Can you speak English?
You can make an appointment.	Can I make an appointment?
We can go to the doctor.	Can we go to the doctor?



Match the question to the picture

A



B



C



D



1. I can't decide

2. Can you repeat that please?

3. Can you wake me up at 8 o'clock?

4. Yes, I can hear you!



Complete the sentence

1. We can...

a. can ride a bike.

2. Can I...

b. take the bus to work.

3. She...

c. ask a question?

4. Can...

d. I use the bathroom?



Activity

Fill in the blanks

1. Hello! _____ make a doctor's appointment please?
2. I _____ play tennis quite well.
3. They _____ understand. Speak more slowly.
4. _____ repeat that please? I didn't understand.
5. _____ find my keys anywhere. Have you seen them?



How many questions can you make using *can*?

make

write

hear

see

please

have

cook

smell

go



Using the verb *can't*

- To make can negative, we add **not** to make can't. This means something is not possible.

Positive form	Negative form
I can see you.	I can't see you.
We can go to the store.	We can't go to the store.
She can read in English.	She can't read in English.



Asking questions with *can't*

- Asking questions is the same as with **can**. **Can't** comes first, and the pronoun comes second.

Statement	Question
You can't hear me.	Can't you hear me?
We can't see.	Can't we see?
He can't play football.	Can't he play football?



Can her colleague see her? What do you think?



They can see her

They can't see her



Write the sentence as a question

1. She can understand us.



Can she understand us?

2. He can cook Italian food.



3. They can't play with us.





Match the sentences

1. Can you please repeat that?

2. The store is closed.

3. I only speak English.

a. We can't go today.

b. I can't hear you.

c. I can't speak Spanish.



Use complete sentences

What can this person do?

What can't they do?





Use complete sentences

What can this person do?

What can they not do?





Use complete sentences

What can this person do?

What can they not do?





Use complete sentences

What can this person do?

What can they not do?





Imagine you are...

...having a video call with a colleague from China. Act it out with a classmate.

You are having some problems...

- Hearing them
- Seeing them
- Understanding them





Making small talk

Can you count to
ten in Chinese?

Can you drive a car?

Can you play golf?

- Imagine you at a conference and you don't know anyone!
- Make small talk with another person
- Ask them three random questions using 'can'



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. 7
1a, 2d, 3b, 4c

Exercise p. 8
1b, 2c, 3a, 4d

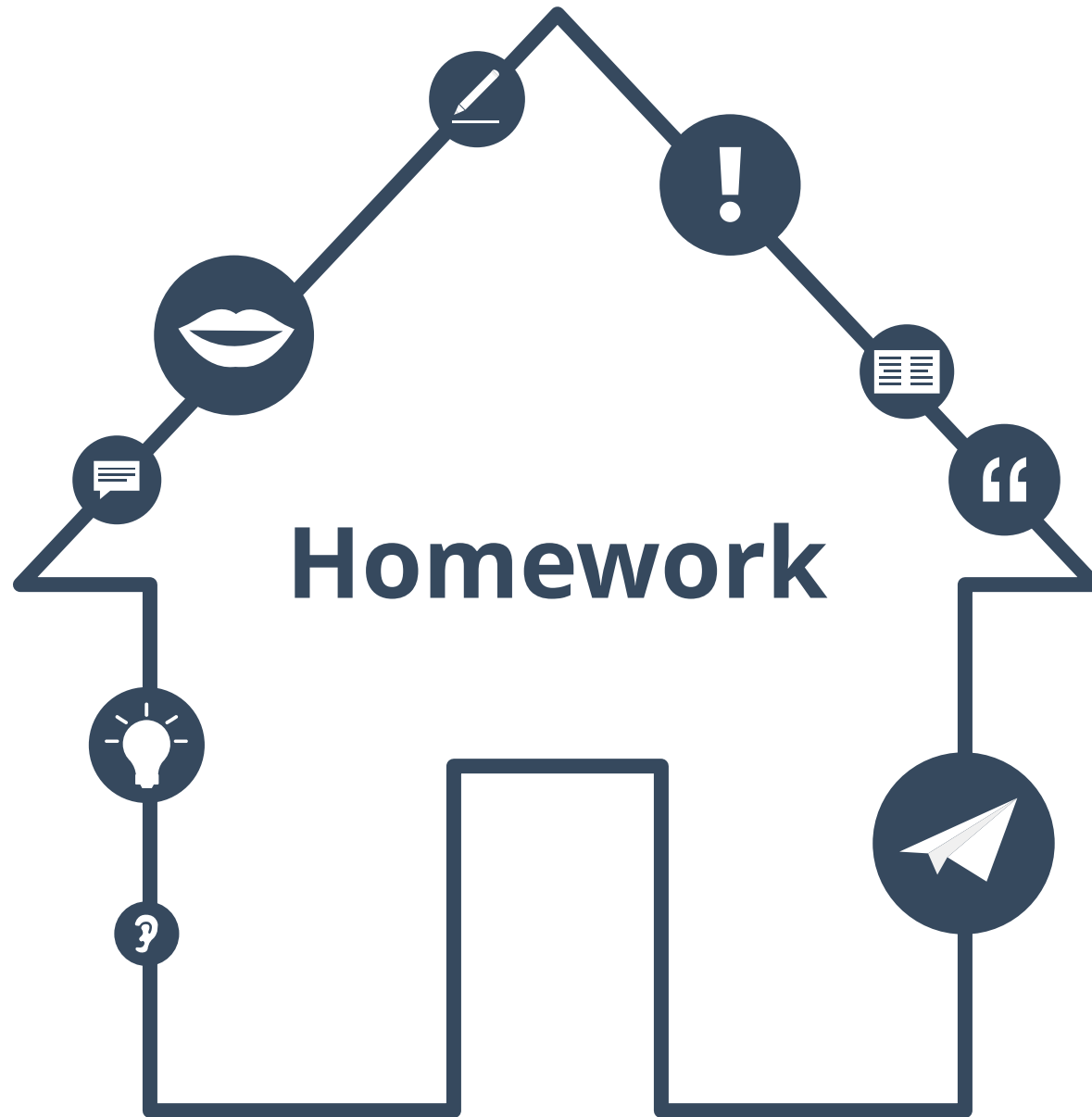
Exercise p. 9
1. Can I
2. can
3. can't
4. Can you
5. I can't

Exercise p. 10
Example answers:
Can he read? Can they write? Can I see?

Exercise p. 13
They can see her

Exercise p. 15
1b, 2a, 3c

Exercise p. 14
2. Can he cook Italian food?
3. Can't they play with us?





Writing practice

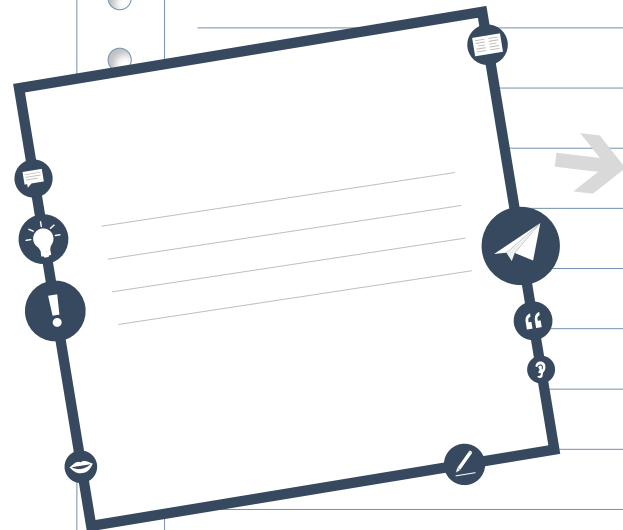
Write a short paragraph about yourself. Include two things you can do, and two things you can't do.

A sheet of white paper with a spiral binding on the left side. The paper has horizontal lines for writing. The spiral binding is made of small white rings.



Text at the beginning

**Go back to the text on page 3
and find examples of
the grammar topic of this lesson in it.
Write them down.**



Copy parts of the text
that are examples of
topic of the lesson.



Find the verbs

**Find the verbs in this lesson and write them down.
Which are new? Do you know all of them?
Look these words up.**

Verbs



Sentences in the first person plural

**Choose five sentences from this lesson.
Copy them and write them about you and a friend.**



Examples:

I don't understand

→ My friend Maria and I don't understand.

He has a book

→ We have a book

...



Easy or difficult?

**Is the grammar topic of this lesson...
easy or difficult?**

Write down what is difficult for you and what is easy.





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We also have a language blog!