

GRAMMAR

Can and can't

LEVEL

Beginner (A1)

NUMBER

EN_A1_2053G

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can form simple sentences using 'can' and 'can't'.
- I can ask and answer questions with 'can' and 'can't'.



I can do anything **you can** do!





Using the verb *can*

- Use **can + 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**...

ride a bicycle.

They **can**...

see you.



Asking a question with *can*

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

Statement

I can speak English.

You can make an appointment.

We can go to the doctor.

Question

Can you speak English?

Can I make an appointment?

Can we go to the doctor?



Match the question to the picture

1



2



3



4



a Can you hear me?

b Can he speak English?

c Can she swim?

d Can you wake me at 8 am?

Match to make sentences

1 We can...

2 Can I...

3 She...

a can ride a bike.

b go to the bathroom, please?

c take the bus into town.



Complete the sentences

1 Hello! _____ make a doctor's appointment please?

2 I _____ play tennis quite well.

3 They _____ understand if you speak slowly.

4 _____ repeat that please? I didn't understand.

5 We _____ come tomorrow if you want.



Make questions using *can*

smell

speak

make

cook

see

write

hear

have

go

help





Using the verb *can't*

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

Positive form

I can see you.

We can go to the store.

She can read in English.

Negative form

I can't see you.

We can't go to the store.

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 **subject** 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?



Find the opposite



He can play the guitar.

He _____ the guitar.

Match to make sentences

1 The shop is closed.

2 I only speak English.

3 Can you repeat that, please?

a I can't hear you.

b We can't go in today.

c I can't speak Spanish.



Make negative sentences or questions

1 They can come.



They can't come.

2 He can cook Italian food.



3 Can we go with you?



4 The children can eat ice cream before dinner.



5 I can speak German.





Can you pick up the kids today?

Can do!
Sorry, no can do.

We can use **can do** and **no can do** to say that we can and will do something, or that we can't and will not do something.



Can and can't

**What can and
can't he do?**

How old is he?





Answer the questions

Answer the questions about each animal in the pictures.

What animal is it?
What can it do?
What can't it do?





What can you do?

In breakout rooms or together as a class, **say** what you can and can't do in these places.



office

gym

zoo

library

airport

train

school

cinema

shopping centre



Asking questions

Ask your classmates **three random questions** using *can*.



Can you count to ten in Chinese?

Can you drive a car?

Can you play golf?



End of the lesson

Idiom

a clean bill of health

Meaning: a decision by a doctor that someone is healthy

Example: The doctor gave me a clean bill of health.



Additional practice



Fill in the gaps with *can* or *can't*



Hello. _____ I make an appointment with the doctor?

Yes. _____ you come tomorrow at 2 pm?



No, I _____. I'm working.

How about after work? I _____ get you an appointment at 5.





Fill in the gaps

Fill in the **gaps** with **can** or **can't** and one of the verbs from the pink box.

1 The cinema is not far. We _____ there.

2 I _____ for dinner tomorrow because it's my dad's birthday.

3 You _____ football here.

4 _____ we _____ dessert after dinner?

5 You _____ your phone outside but not in here.

have
not play
use
walk
not come



Your friend

Talk about one of your friends and **answer** the questions.

What can they do but
you can't?



What can't they do but
you can?



Writing

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



Lined area for writing a paragraph.



Answer key

P.6: 1) c, 2) d, 3) a, 4) b

P.7: 1) c, 2) b, 3) a

P. 8: 1) Can I, 2) can, 3) can, 4) Can you, 5) can

P.12: can't play

P.13: 1) b, 2) c, 3) a

P.14: 2. He can't cook Italian food. 3) Can't we go with you? 4) The children can't eat ice cream before dinner. 5) I can't speak German.



Answer key



P.23: Can, can, can't, can

P.24: 1) can walk, 2) can't come, 3) can't play, 4) Can (we) have, 5) can use



Summary

Using *can*:

- Use **can + verb** to talk about your abilities, e.g. *I can swim*.
- The form of *can* stays the same for every pronoun
- When asking a question, **can** comes first, and the **subject** comes second, e.g. *Can you swim?*

Using *can't*:

- To make *can* negative, we add **not** to make **can't**. This means something is not possible. E.g. *You can't speak Spanish*.
- Asking questions is the same as with *can*. **Can't** comes first, and the **subject** comes second. E.g. *can't you speak Spanish?*



Vocabulary

can

can't

to swim

to smell

to help

