



Making comparisons

Usage

We use comparison of equality to highlight the equality or inequality between two things, people or actions.

She is (not) as tall as her brother.

We use comparative adjectives to compare two people or things.

Nuran is taller than Fatma.

The shoes are more expensive than the trainers.

We use superlative adjectives to say that a person or thing has the greatest amount of a characteristic, compared to everything else in a group of three or more.

She's the most successful singer in the world.

We use *different from* to compare two or more items. *Different* means not the same.

Adam is so different from his brother.

We use *like* to express the similarity. We use a noun or pronoun after it.

My sister is like my mother.

Ability: *can* and *could*

<i>can</i>	
Affirmative I / You / He / She / It / We / They can swim.	Negative I / You / He / She / It / We / They can't swim.
Questions Can Jana swim?	Short answers Yes, she can. / No, she can't.

<i>could</i>	
Affirmative I / You / He / She / It / We / They could dance.	Negative I / You / He / She / It / We / They couldn't dance.
Questions Could they dance?	Short answers Yes, they could. / No, they couldn't.

Can and *could* each have only one form. They do not change with different subjects.

He can play the piano. She can make videos

~~*He cans play the piano. She cans make videos.*~~

We use *can / could* plus base form of the main verb (without *to*).

You can speak English. She could run 5km.

~~*You can to speak English. She could to run 5km.*~~

The negative forms of *can* and *could* are *cannot* and *could not*. However, in spoken and informal written English, we use the short forms *can't* and *couldn't*.

Ann can't cook. ~~Ann doesn't can cook.~~

I couldn't play tennis. ~~I didn't can play tennis.~~

As with *can* and *could*, the main verb takes the base form.

We can't bake cakes. ~~We can't to bake cakes.~~

They couldn't understand the website.

~~*They couldn't to understand the website.*~~

Usage

Can and *could* describe the ability to do something.

I can make a pizza.

He could read when he was four.

Can describes the ability to do something in the present.

They can speak German now.

Could describes the ability to do something in the past.

She could ride a horse when she was six.

Questions with *How ... ?*

To make questions with *how*, we use *how* + *often*, *much / many*, or an adjective.

How often do you go shopping?

How much coffee do you drink?

How many older students do you know?

How high is that mountain?

Usage

We use questions with *how* when we want to know the frequency, measurement or quantity of something.

How much chocolate do you eat?

How many cousins have you got?

How far can you swim?

How strict are your parents?

We use *often* with *how* to ask about frequency.

How often do you practise the piano?

~~*How usually / rarely do you practise the piano?*~~