

44 What you can and can't do

Use "can" to talk about the things you are able to do, such as ride a bicycle or play the guitar. Use "cannot" or "can't" for things you are not able to do.

⚙️ **New language** "Can," "can't," and "cannot"

Aa **Vocabulary** Talents and abilities

🧩 **New skill** Saying what you can and can't do

44.1 KEY LANGUAGE "CAN / CANNOT / CAN'T"

"Can" goes between the subject and the verb. The verb after "can" changes to its base form (the infinitive without "to").

TIP

The long negative form "cannot" is always spelled as one word, not two words.

I **can** ride a bicycle.

Base form of verb.



He **can** play the guitar.

"Can" is always the same. It doesn't change with the subject.



I { **cannot** / **can't** } sing jazz songs.

Short form of "cannot."



44.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES "CAN / CANNOT / CAN'T"



Janet **can** play tennis.



He **cannot** climb the tree.



Bob **can** swim well.



They **can't** lift the box.



44.3 HOW TO FORM "CAN / CANNOT / CAN'T"

SUBJECT	"CAN / CANNOT / CAN'T"	BASE FORM	OBJECT
She	can cannot can't	ride	a bicycle.



44.4 REWRITE THE SENTENCES, PUTTING THE WORDS IN THE CORRECT ORDER

carry chair. can Sylvia the

Sylvia can carry the chair.

1 ride Paul a bicycle. cannot

3 tonight. in the They tent can sleep

4 the hill. cannot up I walk

2 come cannot Manuel party. to the

5 can carry I this car. to the box



44.5 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORD IN EACH SENTENCE

My son is sick. He ~~can~~ / ~~can't~~ go to school today.

4 I have the car today, so I ~~can~~ / ~~can't~~ drive you.

1 Jo's pen doesn't work. She ~~can~~ / ~~can't~~ write her letter.

5 It's cold outside, so we ~~can~~ / ~~can't~~ have a picnic.

2 I understand the homework, so I ~~can~~ / ~~can't~~ do it.

6 Tony needs to work late, so he ~~can~~ / ~~can't~~ come.

3 The museum is closed. We ~~can~~ / ~~can't~~ get in.

7 We ~~can~~ / ~~can't~~ play tennis. It's too dark.



44.6 FILL IN THE GAPS TO WRITE EACH SENTENCE THREE DIFFERENT WAYS

I can read Russian.

I cannot read Russian.

I can't read Russian.

1 _____ Shirley cannot drive a car. _____

2 Ben and Julie can carry boxes. _____

3 _____ Ilaria can't spell English words.

4 _____ He cannot go to work. _____

44.7 KEY LANGUAGE QUESTIONS AND SHORT ANSWERS

To make a question using "can," put "can" before the subject. When you answer "can" questions, you don't need to repeat all the words from the question.



Can you ride a bicycle?

Yes, I can.

No, I can't.



44.8 FURTHER EXAMPLES QUESTIONS AND SHORT ANSWERS

Can she speak Japanese?

Yes, she can.

Can they swim?

No, they can't.

Can we climb that mountain?

No, we can't.

Can you move that chair?

Yes, I can.



44.9 SAY THE SENTENCES OUT LOUD, FILLING IN THE GAPS

Can you lift that heavy box?

Yes, I can.



1 Can he play the piano?

No, _____



2 Can they catch that big fish?

Yes, _____



3 Can you hit that ball over there?

No, _____



4 Can you spell "excited?"

Yes, _____



5 Can we lift this big table?

No, _____



6 Can she fly a kite in this weather?

Yes, _____



7 Can they cycle into town?

No, _____





44.10 WRITE QUESTIONS TO MATCH THE STATEMENTS

Paul and Mary can speak Chinese.

Can Paul and Mary speak Chinese?

1 The dog can jump over the wall.

2 Denise can touch her toes.

3 I can lift my son onto my shoulders.

4 Grandma can see the TV.

5 I can hit the tennis ball over the net.



44.11 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



Sheila and Mark talk about the things they can and can't cook.

Sheila can make a salad.

True ☒ False ☐

1 Sheila doesn't eat meat.

True ☐ False ☐

2 Mark can't cook a roast chicken.

True ☐ False ☐

3 Sheila and Mark can both cook vegetables.

True ☐ False ☐

4 Sheila can make an apple pie.

True ☐ False ☐



44.12 FILL IN THE GAPS WITH "CAN" OR "CANNOT"



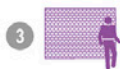
Janet is a chef. She can cook very well.



1 Paul and Jerry don't like the ocean because they _____ swim.



2 I ride my bike to work because I _____ drive.



3 Jim cannot climb over the wall, but he _____ walk around it.



4 My mother _____ lift that bag because it's too heavy.



5 My sister Penny loves music and _____ dance to any song.



44 CHECKLIST



"Can," "can't," and "cannot" ☐

Aa Talents and abilities ☐



Saying what you can and can't do ☐