Can and could for ability



Can and **could** are modal verbs. We use them to talk about possibility, ability and permission. We use **can** and **can't** to talk about our present abilities.

Subject	*can / can't*	Base form
I / he / she / it / we / you / they	**can** **can't**	swim 1000 metres. dance.

Can	Subject	Base form
Can	I / we / she / it / we / you / they	swim 1000 metres? dance?

We use **could** and **couldn't** to talk about our abilities in the past. We often use a past time phrase.

Subject	*could / couldn't*	Base form	Past time phrase
I / he / she / it / we / you / they	**could** **couldn't**	swim	when I was eight. when she was three. this morning. yesterday. in 2006.

We often use **can** and **could** for ability to talk about our senses.

*I **can smell** smoke.* *I **can't taste** it.*
*Can you **hear** me?* *I **couldn't see** it.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Can and could for permission



We use **can** and **can't** to give and refuse permission.

You	**can**	go ...
	can't	have ...





We use **can** and **could** to ask for permission.
Could is more formal than **can**.

Can	I	have ...?
Could	we	go ...?

Have to and don't have to

Have to and **don't have to** are modal verbs. We use **have to** to talk about things that are important because of rules and situations.
*My sister **has to** wear a school uniform.*
*I **have to** wear glasses. My eyes aren't good.*

We use **don't have to** to talk about things that are not necessary.
*You **don't have to** buy a ticket.*
*He **doesn't have to** work.*



Subject	*(don't) have to*	Base form
I / we / you / they	**have to**	leave now.
	don't have to	work.
He / she / it	**has to**	go.
	doesn't have to	

Do / Does	Subject	*have to*	Base form
Do	I / we / you / they	have to	stop?
Does	he / she / it		

*Do you **have to** work?* ***Yes, I do. / No, I don't.***
*Does she **have to** study?* ***Yes, she does. / No, she doesn't.***

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Must and mustn't

Must and **mustn't** are modal verbs. We use **must** and **mustn't** in rules and to give orders.

Subject	*must / mustn't*	Base form
You	**must**	wait here.
You	**mustn't**	be late.

We use **must** to talk about obligation. **Must** is similar to **have to**.
*You **must** be there at nine o'clock.*
*You **must** write in black ink.*

Mustn't is similar to **can't**.
*You **mustn't** run in the school.*
*You **mustn't** bring your phone to school.*

To ask about obligation we usually use **Do I have to ... ?**, not **Must I ... ?**
***Do I have to** be there at nine o'clock?*
***Do I have to** write in black ink?*

LIVEWORKSHEETS