



Listen and repeat. Then act out.



The modal verbs are: **can, could, must, will, would, shall, may, should**, etc. They have the same form in all persons. They come before the subject in questions and take 'not' after them in negations. They take the infinitive without 'to' after them.

Can she sing? No, she **can't** sing but she **can** dance.

### Can – Could

**Can** is used to express ability in the present (= I am able to) or to ask for permission (= Is it OK if ... ?).

She **can** type. (ability in the present)

**Can** I use your pen? (asking for permission)

**Could** is used to express ability in the past (= I was able to), polite requests or to ask for permission politely (= Would it be alright if ... ?).

He **could** run fast when he was 17. (ability in the past)

**Could** I have some tea? (polite request)

**Could** I leave early, please? (asking for permission politely)

### 1 Circle the correct word.

- 1 **Can** / **Can't** I use your pencil, please?
- 2 You **can** / **can't** borrow my book. I need it.
- 3 Maria **can't** / **can** sing well. She's got a beautiful voice.
- 4 **Could** / **Couldn't** I have a glass of water?
- 5 Dan **couldn't** / **could** write at the age of one.
- 6 She **could** / **can** speak Spanish when she was fifteen.
- 7 John and Phil **could** / **can** play the piano. They're quite good at it, too.
- 8 **Could** / **Couldn't** I go to the cinema with Aya?

## 2 Label the speech situations.

ability in the present  
ability in the past

asking for permission  
polite request (x 2)

asking for permission politely

1 *asking for permission politely*



Could I use your phone?

2



They can swim so well.

3



Could you close the door, please?

4



I could walk before the accident.

5



Can I sit here?

6



Could you help me, please?

## 3 Fill in the gaps with can, can't, could or couldn't.

- Katherine is three years old. She *can't* write yet.
- Can I* use your computer, please?
- Diane *couldn't* go to the cinema with her friends yesterday. She had too much homework.
- He *could* read from a very young age.
- Alexa *can* drive now that she is eighteen.
- I'm afraid you *can't* use the printer right now. It's broken.
- Could* Emma speak Italian when she was twelve?
- My mum *can* cook very well. Everything she makes is delicious!
- Can I* leave early today, Miss Julie?
- The weather was terrible yesterday, so we *couldn't* go to the beach.



**Must – Mustn't**

We use **must** to express necessity  
(=it is necessary to) or obligation  
(=I'm obliged to).

It's raining. I **must** take my umbrella. (necessity)  
I **must** tidy my room. (obligation)

We use **must not/mustn't** to show that  
something is forbidden or that someone  
is not allowed to do something.

You **mustn't** eat in class.

**4** Look at the pictures and fill in the gaps with *must* or *mustn't*.



1 You ... *must* ... recycle glass here.



2 You ..... ride your bike here.



3 You ..... park here.



4 You ..... drive slow.



5 You ..... stop.



6 You ..... throw your rubbish here.

**Have to – Don't have to**

We use **have to** to express necessity  
(=it is necessary to). We can not choose  
to do something else. It is obligatory.

Nurses **have to** wear a uniform at work.

We use **don't / doesn't have to** to  
express lack of necessity (=it is not  
necessary to).

You **don't have to** do the ironing. I did it  
yesterday.