18 He can play the piano.

Grammar Station

Modal Verb: *Can* (Ability)

- We use *can* to talk about ability. It comes **before the base verb**.
- We use *can't* (=*cannot*) to make negative sentences.
- We put ***can*** **before the subject** to make yes/no questions.

Positive			Negative		
Subject	Modal Verb	Base Verb	Subject	Modal Verb	Base Verb
I / You He / She / It We / They	can	**dance**.	I / You He / She/ It We / They	can't (=**cannot**)	**dance**.

Question			Answer		
Modal Verb	Subject	Base Verb	Yes/No	Subject	Modal Verb
Can	I / You He / She / It We / They	**dance**?	Yes,	you / I he / she / it you / they	**can**.
			No,		**can't**.

I **can** ride a bike.
I **can't** drive a car.

He **can** play the piano.
He **can't** play the violin.

Can you swim?
– Yes, I **can**.

Can they speak Chinese?
– No, they **can't**.

Write the correct letters.

1. [a] I can skate.
2. [ ] An eagle can fly.
3. [ ] My friend can't skate.
4. [ ] A penguin can't fly.

Check Up

A Circle the correct words.

1. I (can / cans) jump high.
2. He (can / cans) run fast.
3. We (cannot / don't can) ski.
4. I (cann't / can't) speak French.
5. It can (climb / climbs) trees.
6. They can (play / plays) chess.
7. A (Can you fly / Do you can fly) a kite? B Yes, I (can / can't).
8. A (Can they ride / Do they can ride) bikes? B No, they (can / can't).

B Complete the sentences with *can* or *can't*.

1. The eagle ___can't___ swim.
2. The monkeys _____ climb trees.
3. The zebra _____ run fast.
4. The lion _____ fly.
5. The hippos _____ jump high.

C Complete the answers.

1.
   A Can he swim?
   B No, ___he___ ___can't___.
2.
   A Can she sing well?
   B Yes, _____ _____.
3.
   A Can the boys skate?
   B No, _____ _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Practice

A Choose and complete the sentences using *can* or *can't*.

speak ~~open~~ walk carry play

1. I don't have the key. I can't open the door.
2. We practice the violin every day. We _____ _____ the violin well.
3. He _____ _____ the box. He needs some help.
4. My friend Mika is from Japan. She _____ _____ Japanese.
5. My baby brother is six months old. He _____ _____ yet.

B Complete the answers.

1.
   Ⓐ Can Cathy snowboard? (ski)
   Ⓑ No, she can't. But she can ski.
2.
   ● Can the parrot sing? (talk)
   ● No, it ___ . But it _____ _____.
3.
   Ⓐ Can the girls play chess? (play soccer)
   Ⓑ No, they ___ . But they _____ _____ _____.

C Change and complete the sentences.

1. You can drive a car. → Question Can you drive a car?
2. I can answer the question. → Negative _____ _____ _____ the question.
3. They can speak Chinese. → Question _____ _____ _____ Chinese?
4. She can draw her dog. → Negative _____ _____ _____ her dog.
5. He can make cookies. → Question _____ _____ _____ cookies?

Grammar in Writing

When you interview someone, you can use *can* or *can't* to ask about his or her abilities.

Complete the interview.

Ability	Amy	Alex	Paula	Billy	Tim
pass the ball well	✔				
dribble the ball well			✔		
jump high				✔	✔
shoot the ball well	✔	✔			

- Let's start, Amy. Can you pass the ball well?
- Yes, I can.
- _____ you dribble the ball well?
- No, I can't. Paula _____ dribble the ball well.
- Can she jump high?
- _____, _____ .
  Billy and Tim _____ jump high.
- _____ they shoot the ball well?
- No, they can't. Alex and I can _____ _____ well.
- Great! You're a good team.

Review!

Complete the chart.

Positive	Negative	Question
You can fly a kite.	You can't fly a kite.	Can you fly a kite?
He can ride a bike.	He _____ a bike.	_____ a bike?
She can cook very well.	She _____ very well.	_____ very well?
We can catch balls.	We _____ balls.	_____ balls?
They can play the guitar.	They _____ the guitar.	_____ the guitar?

LIVEWORKSHEETS