

## Can/Could

Supply *can*, *can't*, *could*, *couldn't*

- 1 A good 1500-metre runner ..... *can* ..... run the race in under four minutes.
- 2 Bill is so unfit he ..... run at all!
- 3 Our baby is only nine months and he ..... already stand up.
- 4 When I was younger, I ..... speak Italian much better than I ..... now.
- 5 ..... she speak German very well? – No, she ..... speak German at all.
- 6 He ..... draw or paint at all when he was a boy, but now he's a famous artist.

Rewrite these sentences using *can*, *can't*, *could* or *couldn't*.

- 1 Do you see that man over there? ..... *Can you see that man over there?* .....
- 2 I smell something burning. ....
- 3 I understood what he said. ....
- 4 Did you understand what he said? ....
- 5 I don't see anyone. ....
- 6 I didn't understand what he said. ....

Study:

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Instead of: ***It's often*** cold in January.

We can say: ***It can be*** cold in January.

Instead of: ***He was often*** naughty when he was a boy.

We can say: ***He could be*** naughty when he was a boy.

Write: Rewrite these sentences with *can be* or *could be*.

- 1 The sea is often rough in the harbour. .... *The sea can be rough in the harbour.* .....
- 2 She is bad tempered at times. ....
- 3 She was often rude when she was a girl. ....
- 4 It is often cold here in winter. ....
- 5 He was often helpful when he wanted to be. ....

Make suitable requests for permission in these situations.

- 1 You are visiting a close friend and you want to make yourself some coffee.  
..... *Can I make myself some coffee (please)?* .....
- 2 You are at a party given by people you hardly know. You want to see their garden.  
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- 3 You are visiting people you know reasonably well. You want to make a phone call.  
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- 4 You are visiting a close friend and want to borrow his new car.  
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