

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:



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.