Can and Could

We use **can** when we talk about an ability to do something or make a request. We add **not** to make a negative statement. The contraction of **cannot** is **can't**.

I can speak three different languages: Korean, English, and French.
I can't speak German.

Can I borrow your pen?

The past of **can** is **could**. The negative form of **could** is **could not**. The contraction of **could not** is **couldn't**.

The room was too dark, so I couldn't find the switch.

I could speak two different languages when I was five.

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A. Check ✓ your own answers.

1. Can you speak English?

☐ Yes, I can. ☐ No, I cannot.

2. Can you dance?

☐ Yes, I can. ☐ No, I cannot.

3. Can you bake a cake?

☐ Yes, I can. ☐ No, I cannot.

B. Rewrite the sentences using the past form of *can*.

1. I cannot get up early.

→ I could not get up early.

2. He cannot eat spinach.

→ _____

3. They can hear the radio.

→ _____

4. She can call him.

→ _____

C. Write three things you can do well and three things you cannot do well.

I can ...	I cannot ...

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