

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.



- a** I can skate.
- b** An eagle can fly.
- c** My friend can't skate.
- d** A penguin can't fly.



A Circle the correct words.

- I **can** / cans jump high.
- We **can** / cans run fast.
- It can **climb** / climbs trees.
- They can **play** / plays chess.
- A** (Can you fly / Do you can fly) a kite?
B Yes, I **can** / can't.
- A** (Can they ride / Do they can ride) bikes?
B No, they **can** / can't.

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

- The eagle **can't** swim.
- The monkeys **can** climb trees.
- The zebra **can** run fast.
- The lion **can't** fly.
- The hippos **can't** jump high.

C Complete the answers.

- A** Can he swim?
B No, **he** **can't**.
- A** Can she sing well?
B Yes, **she** **can**.
- A** Can the boys skate?
B No, **they** **can't**.

Practice

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

speak open walk carry play

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

B Complete the answers.

- 
 A Can Cathy snowboard? (ski)
 B No, she can't. But she can ski.
- 
 A Can the parrot sing? (talk)
 B No, it . But it .
- 
 A Can the girls play chess? (play soccer)
 B No, they . But they .

C Change and complete the sentences.

- You can drive a car.
 Question Can you drive a car?
 Negative the question.
- I can answer the question.
 Question Chinese?
- They can speak Chinese.
 Question Chinese?
- She can draw her dog.
 Question her dog.
- 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 .

Great! You're a good team. well.



Complete the chart.

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