

Prerequisite n/a

## CAN - CANNOT

USES OF CAN Simple Present Tense

**1. ability or possibility**  
- I can swim.

**2. permission**  
- You can use my pen.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

SINGULAR	I	can	speak English.	I	can't	speak French.
	You	can	ride a bike.	You	can't	ride a horse.
	He	can	drive a car.	He	can't	drive a truck.
	She	can	play the guitar.	She	can't	play the piano.
	It	can	swim.	It	can't	fly.

**PLURAL**

We	can	play football.	We	can't	play tennis.
You	can	see the stars.	You	can't	see germs.
They	can	dance.	They	can't	sing.

**QUESTIONS**

+ Affirmative They **can** speak Spanish.

? Question **Can** they speak Spanish? **Can** they speak Spanish?

Short Answer Yes, they can. / No, they can't.

**CAN + VERB\*** \*Base form of the infinitive

He can speak English. ✓  
He can speaks English. ✗ No S  
He can to speak English. ✗ No TO

**NEGATIVE**

I	can't	speak French.
You	can't	ride a horse.
He	can't	drive a truck.
She	can't	play the piano.
It	can't	fly.

**CONTRACTION**

can't = cannot

He can't sing.  
= He cannot sing.

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**MUST**

## USES OF MUST

1. Obligation  
You must listen.
2. Deduction  
You must be right.
3. Strong recommendation  
We must improve our English!

**must + verb \***

\* The base form of the infinitive  
= to go, to study, to speak, etc.

He **must** stop. ✗  
He **must** stop. ✓  
You **must** to go. ✗  
You **must** go. ✓  
She **must** waits. ✗  
She **must** wait. ✓

**Mustn't = Must not**

It is important that you do NOT do something.  
= it is prohibited  
= it is not allowed  
- You **mustn't** use your phone while driving.

**Exercice auto-corrigé:**

Complète ces phrases avec la forme affirmative ou négative de CAN ou MUST  
(soit CAN, CAN'T, MUST ou MUSTN'T).

- 1) David is 14. He \_\_\_\_\_ drive a car.
- 2) You \_\_\_\_\_ respect other people's opinions.
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ you pass me the bread please?
- 4) If you are in trouble, you \_\_\_\_\_ ask for help.
- 5) Jane \_\_\_\_\_ speak five languages ! Wow!
- 6) Students \_\_\_\_\_ wear a uniform in British schools.
- 7) You \_\_\_\_\_ smoke in an hospital!
- 8) How \_\_\_\_\_ I go to Oxford Street please?
- 9) What she says \_\_\_\_\_ be true. I'm sure it is false.
- 10) What she says \_\_\_\_\_ be true. I'm sure it is true.
- 11) Anne is an excellent swimmer. She \_\_\_\_\_ swim very fast.
- 12) You \_\_\_\_\_ use your mobile phone at school.
- 13) I \_\_\_\_\_ have all the right answers at this exercise!