

## Talking about ability and asking for permission

I can talk about ability and ask for permission.

### Exercise 1.

1.08 Read and listen to the dialogue. What is Alfie's opinion of the girl in the photo? What is Rose's opinion?



Alfie Let's stop and listen. This is a great song.  
 Rose Hmm. She isn't very good. She can't sing.  
 Alfie She can play the guitar really well. And her voice isn't bad.  
 Rose I can't hear the words.  
 Alfie But she's really young. She's only fourteen or fifteen. Can you play the guitar like that?  
 Rose No, I can't. But I can play the piano. Come on, let's go.  
 Alfie No, wait.  
 Rose What's the problem?  
 Alfie I can't find my money. Can I borrow £1, please?  
 Rose For her? Really? Oh, OK.

### LEARN THIS! *can*

- a We use *can* to talk about ability.
- b The form of *can* is the same for all persons (*I, you, he, she, we, etc.*).

**Affirmative:** *I can play football.*

**Negative:** *They can't hear you.*

**Interrogative:** *Can you dance? Yes, I can. / No, I can't.*

- c We also use *can* to ask for permission.

*Can I use your phone? Yes, you can. / No, you can't.*

Дієслово **Can** має одну і ту саму форму для одинини і множини. Наприклад, **I can**, **He can**.

Ми вживаємо **can** коли:

- Ми показуємо, що ми здатні зробити якусь дію. **I can sing.**
- Коли ми просимо зробити щось для нас. **Can you open the door, please?**
- Коли ми просимо нам щось дати. **Can I have a piece of cake, please?**

Впишіть **Can you** або **Can** у фрази:

*borrow, carry, have, help*

1



2



3



Complete the sentences about the dialogue in exercise 1.  
Use the affirmative or negative form of *can*.

- 1 The girl can play the guitar well.
- 2 Rose can hear the words of the song.
- 3 Rose can play the guitar.
- 4 Rose can play the piano.
- 5 Alfie can't find his money.

**SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Ask permission to do the things below. Use *Can I ... ?*

*borrow your pencil*   *use your dictionary*   *ask a question*  
*share your book*   *copy your answer*

Can I borrow ... ?

Yes, you can. / No, you can't.

Label the instruments with the words below.

clarinet drums flute guitar piano saxophone  
trumpet violin



1 \_\_\_\_\_



2 \_\_\_\_\_



3 \_\_\_\_\_



4 \_\_\_\_\_



5 \_\_\_\_\_



6 \_\_\_\_\_



7 \_\_\_\_\_



8 \_\_\_\_\_

Look at the table. Then write sentences with *can* or *can't*.

Ted	✓	✓	✗	✗
Marie	✗	✓	✗	✓
Mason	✗	✓	✓	✓
Sophie	✓	✓	✗	✓

1 Ted / the violin

Ted can't play the violin.

Write questions with *Can ... ?* and the information in brackets. Then write answers using the table in exercise 2.

1 (Ted / football) Can Ted play football? Yes, he can.

2 (Marie / violin) \_\_\_\_\_

3 (Sophie and Mason / bike) \_\_\_\_\_

4 (Marie and Mason / Chinese) \_\_\_\_\_

5 (Mason / football) \_\_\_\_\_

Write true sentences about your abilities using *can* / *can't* and the verbs in brackets.

1 (swim) I can swim. / I can't swim.

2 (sing) \_\_\_\_\_

3 (dance) \_\_\_\_\_

4 (ski) \_\_\_\_\_

5 (ride a horse) \_\_\_\_\_

6 (speak French) \_\_\_\_\_

### VOCABULARY Check the meaning of the verbs below.

Match four of them with pictures 1–4.

Action verbs dance play basketball / football / tennis  
play the drums / clarinet ride a bike / a horse skate  
skateboard sing ski speak Chinese / French / Spanish  
swim

