

5C can and can't

We use *can* and *can't* to talk about:

- ability.

I can swim.

My brother can play the guitar.

I can't speak Italian.

My sister can't cook.

- possibility.

You can make money from your hobby.

It can snow here in the winter.

You can't get there by bus.

- permission.

You can take my umbrella.

We can sit here.

We can't park on this street.

You can't use this gym if you're not a member.

To make questions with *can*, we put *can* before the subject. We use the same form for all people.

5.8 I / you / he / she / it / we / they

I **can** play the piano.

+ They **can** go to the city by bus.

We **can** finish work early today.

She **can't** speak Japanese.

- They **can't** work at night.

You **can't** walk on the grass.

Can she **play** the guitar?

? Can you **come** to my party?

Can we **park** the car here?

Y/N Yes, we **can**. / No, we **can't**.

Look! The full form of *can't* is *cannot*. We don't often use *cannot*; *can't* is the usual negative form.

I can't meet you tonight. NOT ~~I cannot meet you tonight.~~

2 Write short answers to the questions about the people in exercise 1.

	Craig	Helen	Manuel	Silvia
cook	✓	✓	✗	✓
play tennis	✓	✗	✓	✗
drive	✓	✓	✓	✗
speak French	✗	✗	✗	✓

- 1 Can Silvia drive?

- 2 Can Craig play tennis?

- 3 Can Helen cook?

- 4 Can Manuel speak French?

- 5 Can Helen and Silvia play tennis?

- 6 Can Craig and Manuel drive?
