

CAN – CAN'T

We use can/can't to talk about abilities:

- 1 I can sing, but I can't dance.
- 2 I can come on Tuesday, but I can't come on Wednesday.
- 3 You can park here. You can't park there.
- 4 Can you help me? Can I open the window?

5.5

• can + infinitive has different meanings:

- 1 I can (sing) = I know how to.
I can't (dance) = I don't know how to.
- 2 I can (come) = It's possible for me.
I can't (come) = It's not possible for me.
- 3 You can (park here) = It's OK. / It's permitted.
You can't (park here) = It's not OK. / It's not permitted.
- 4 Can you (help me)? = Please do it.
Can I (open the window)? = Is it OK if I do it?

+			-		
I / You / He / She / It / We / They	can	swim. come. help.	I / You / He / She / It / We / They	can't	swim. come. help.

?			+			-		
Can	I / you / he / she / it / we / they	swim? come? help?	Yes,	I / you / he / she / it / we / they	can.	No,	I / you / he / she / it / we / they	can't.

- can and can't are the same for all persons (I, you, he, etc.).
NOT ~~He cans.~~
- **Contraction:** can't = cannot.
- We don't use to after can.
I can swim. **NOT** ~~I can to swim.~~