

**PROPÓSITO:**

I **can** create short, simple sentences about interests and likes.

I can describe what other people can or can't do.

I can ask and answer questions about what people are doing **MOTIVACIÓN:**

check the next video and write what you understand. Mire el video y escriba lo que usted entiende.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UFo7OwbQKc>

**EXPLICACIÓN:**

# CAN - CANNOT

Simple Present Tense

USES OF CAN

1. **ability or possibility**  
- I can swim.
2. **permission**  
- You can use my pen.

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

He can speak English. ✓

He can speaks ~~English~~. ✗ No S

He can ~~to~~ speak English. ✗ No TO

AFFIRMATIVE

SINGULAR	I	can	speak English.
	You	can	ride a bike.
	He	can	drive a car.
	She	can	play the guitar.
	It	can	swim.

NEGATIVE

SINGULAR	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.

AFFIRMATIVE

PLURAL	We	can	play football.
	You	can	see the stars.
	They	can	dance.

NEGATIVE

PLURAL	We	can't	play tennis.
	You	can't	see germs.
	They	can't	sing.

QUESTIONS

+ Affirmative They **can** speak Spanish.

? Question **Can** they speak Spanish?

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

CONTRACTION

**can't = cannot**

He *can't* sing.  
= He *cannot* sing.

www.grammar.cl
www.woodwardenglish.com
www.vocabulary.cl

## Can - Cannot - Can't

WWW.PROYECTOPROMETEO.COM - PROYECTO PROMETEO S.A.S. - 1

# English Grammar Notes

**Can** is a modal verb.

**Can** is used to express **ability** or to say that something is **possible**.

**Can** is the same for all subjects. We don't add an 'S' in the third person (like other verbs)

The verb that comes after **Can** is in the infinitive without **to**:

I **can** *speak* Spanish. (= it is possible for me to speak Spanish = I have the ability to speak Spanish)

He **can** *swim* well.

We **can** see our neighbour in the garden.

They **can** *play* the guitar.

## Negative

To form the negative we add "**not**" after **can** to form one word: **cannot**.

We can also contract the negative to form **can't**. (can't = cannot)

I **cannot** *play* the piano. We **can't** *go* to the cinema tonight.

She **cannot** *speak* French very well. He **can't** *drive* a car.

## Questions

To form the question we change the position of the subject and the auxiliary verb.

The main verb is still in the infinitive without *to*.

Where **can** I *buy* an ice-cream?

**Can** I *go* to the party, please?

**Can** you *speak* Japanese?

What **can** we *do* on Saturday?

Remember that you can use short answers:

Can I sit here please? **Yes, you can.**

Can you speak Chinese? **No, I can't.**

## Impersonal Can

Sometimes **You can** and **Can you...?** are impersonal and refer to people in general.

**You can** see many stars at night from here. (= people in general can see many stars)

It doesn't necessarily refer to you but people in general.

**You can't** run naked in the middle of the street.

**Retrieved from:** [https://www.grammar.cl/Basic/Can\\_Cannot.htm](https://www.grammar.cl/Basic/Can_Cannot.htm)

**EJERCICIOS:**

**1. Read and answer the multiple choice questions**

In Ukraine, students are very good at gymnastics, swimming and athletics. We like doing sports because they help people to be more disciplined and healthy. We also like doing other things that are different from sports. For example, sewing's an exciting activity in many schools in Ukraine. It's very difficult for me. My sister's really good at it, but she doesn't like it. She likes dancing. She likes salsa, the Latin dance. It's a bit hard for her, but she practises every day.

**1. Ukrainian students are good at ...**

- a. swimming and cooking.
- b. athletics and gymnastics.
- c. football and watching TV.

**2. For Dimitri's sister, salsa's ...**

- a. a bit difficult.
- b. really easy.
- c. boring.

**3. In Ukraine, students do sports to be ...**

- a. strong and fast.
- b. disciplined and healthy.
- c. interesting and fascinating.

**4. For Dimitri, sewing's ...**

- a. very difficult.
- b. exciting.
- c. very easy.

- **2. Match the problems (1-5) with the solutions (a-e).**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1.</b> Car accidents.                | • <b>a.</b> You can listen to others with patience                |
| <b>2.</b> Rubbish on the street         | • <b>b.</b> You can pay more attention to other people's space.   |
| <b>3.</b> Fights in the street          | <b>c.</b> You can give other cars more space.                     |
| <b>4.</b> Arguments with a person       | <b>d.</b> You can put the rubbish in a bag and take it home.      |
| • <b>5.</b> People pushing other people | • <b>e.</b> You can ask about the problem and suggest a solution. |

**EVALUACIÓN:****1. The Hodgsons Can!**

The Hodgson family from Texas, USA are probably the most talented family in the country. Thomas is the father of the family. He's 52 years old and he can do everything. He can run for a long time. Every day, he goes running in his neighborhood for 40 minutes. He can also swim very well. He swims for his state's over-50 team! Thomas can't speak any foreign languages, but his wife, Judy, certainly can! She can speak French, Spanish and even Japanese. And she can teach them too. She works at the Pinewood Language Academy.

Thomas and Judy Hodgson have three children and they can all do many things too. Robbie, 23, can't run for long distances like his father, but he can run very fast. He can run 100 meters in just 11 seconds. That's very fast. He can also fly! Not like a bird, but using a hang-glider. He goes hang-gliding every weekend in the hills near the family home. The middle child is Janine, who is 19. She's similar to her mother and she loves foreign languages. She studies Italian and French and can speak both of them very well. When she's with her mother, they can speak French and nobody in the house understands them!

Clara is the baby of the family. She's only 9 years old. She can't speak French and she can't fly. What can she do? She can bake the best cakes in the world! And her parents and her brother and sister can eat them.

### Complete the information with the reading text

- 1. The family lives in the American state of \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Thomas likes swimming and \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. He \_\_\_\_\_ speak any foreign languages.
- 4. Judy speaks English and \_\_\_\_\_ other languages.
- 5. Judy is a \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Robbie can't run far, but he can run \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Clara can \_\_\_\_\_ very good cakes
- 8. Her family \_\_\_\_\_ the cakes.

○

- **2. Write a short paragraph about thing that you can and can't do**

#### SELF EVALUATION

- 1. What I have learned?
- 2. What was easy from the lesson?
- 3. What was difficult?

### BIBLIOGRAFÍA:

Here you can find some information to know more about can and can't

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/grammar-practice/modals-can-and-cant>