

Modals: Can

Can you speak English?

+	-	?
I can drive a car. You can change a tire. He can play the guitar. She can use office software. We can help other students. They can cook a full meal.	I can't drive a car. You can't change a tire. He can't play the guitar. She can't use office software. We can't help other students. They can't cook a full meal.	Can I drive a car? Can you change a tire? Can he play the guitar? Can use office software? Can we help other students? Can they cook a full meal?

Using 'can' and 'can't'

He can't swim very well.

We use ' can ' to say things we are able to do. <i>Asher can do one hundred pushups.</i> <i>I can change a car tire in five minutes.</i>	We use ' can't ' to say things we are unable to do. <i>I can't walk more than one kilometre.</i> <i>He can't swim very well.</i>	Only use the basic form of the verb after 'can' and 'can't'. <i>She can play the piano.</i> <i>She can plays the piano.</i> In formal speaking and writing, we sometimes use 'cannot.' <i>I'm sorry, but I cannot help you.</i>
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1 Write sentences about things that Emily can and can't do.

basketball ~~hockey~~ a) bananas ~~peanut butter~~ b) Russian ~~Japanese~~ c) a car ~~a motorcycle~~
 d) the violin ~~the guitar~~ e) green tea ~~coffee~~

- ▶ play *Emily can play basketball, but she can't play hockey.*
- a) eat
- b) speak
- c) drive
- d) play
- e) drink

2 Write questions with 'can.'

- ▶ I'm travelling to Italy. (speak Italian) *Can you speak Italian?*
- a) Cameron wants to join a choir. (sing)
- b) Aubrey got a job in a school. (teach)
- c) I want to join a music group. (play an instrument)
- d) Jackson and his brother are going to the Rockies this winter. (ski)
- e) Ariana is taking an art class. (paint)
- f) Benjamin invited Nova for dinner. (cook)
- g) My teenage children are going on a trip. (drive)

Review the vocabulary for *At the grocery store.* (You saw this in Unit A1-08.)

a bag of apples	a bunch of bananas	a can of beans	a case of beer	a loaf of bread
a pound of butter	a piece of cheese	a bar of chocolate	a dozen eggs	a piece of fish
a piece of fruit	a piece of meat	a carton of milk	a bag of oranges	a bag of potatoes
a bag of rice	a shaker of salt	a jar of sugar	a tomato	a vegetable

Let's chat! Use the questions below for a quick chat.

- What are some foods that you can eat? What are some foods that you can't eat? Why?
- What are some animals that you can have at home? What are some animals that you can't have at home? Why?
- What are some sports and hobbies that you can't do? Why?
- What musical instruments can you play? What instrument can't you play, but would like to learn?



Actions (regular verbs)

I can't change a tire.



to pick up



to carry



to change



to open



to close



to show



to look



to watch



to listen



to wait



to visit



to help



to cook



to work



to play



to clean the windows



to use



to kick



to smoke



to finish

3 Use the vocabulary list to find the right word.

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) to cause something to no longer be covered
..... | k) to do activities for fun |
| b) to cover the opening of something
..... | l) to do something with an object for a purpose
..... |
| c) to direct your eyes in a particular direction
..... | m) to do things as part of your job
..... |
| d) to do something that makes it easier for someone to do a job | n) to go somewhere to spend time with someone
..... |
| e) to hit something with your foot
..... | o) to lift something from the ground
..... |
| f) to move something while holding it
..... | p) to look at something for an amount of time and pay attention to what is happening
..... |
| g) to pay attention to someone in order to hear what is being said | q) to reach the end of something
..... |
| h) to prepare food with heat | r) to stay in a place until an expected event happens |
| i) to remove dirt from something
..... | s) to tell someone where something is by pointing to it |
| j) to replace one thing with another
..... | t) to use a cigarette, cigar, or pipe
..... |

Regular verbs in the past

She asked a question.

+	-	?
I carried a box.	I did not carry a box.	Did I carry a box?
You cooked a meal.	You did not cook a meal.	Did you cook a meal?
He kicked a ball.	He did not kick a ball.	Did he kick a ball?
She opened a present.	She did not open a present.	Did she open a present?
We played with leaves.	We did not play with leaves.	Did we play with leaves?
They picked up some trash.	They did not pick up some trash.	Did they pick up some trash?

Quick tip! Remember that we usually use short answers for yes/no questions.

'Did you clean the bathroom?' **'Yes, I did.'**

'Did you cook dinner?' **'No, I didn't.'**



4 Answer the following questions with long or short answers.

- ▶ When did you visit your stepmother? (last week) *I visited my stepmother last week.*
- ▶ Did you watch the new action movie? (no) *No, I didn't.*
- a) What did Carter cook for supper? (soup)
- b) Did they carry the boxes? (no)
- c) When did Hannah finish her homework? (two hours ago)
- d) What did you watch on television? (a movie)
- e) When did Michael use your car? (last night)
- f) Did he play with his daughter? (yes)
- g) What did your class pick up in the schoolyard? (garbage)

Pronunciation: Final -ed

I waited for my friend.

The past tense ending '-ed' is pronounced as /t/, /d/, or /ɪd/ depending on the last letter of the verb.

Rule 1 '-ed' becomes /t/ following soft consonants such as f, s, t, p, k, sh, ch and others. Soft consonants do not make your vocal cords vibrate.

looked, watched, helped, danced, finished

Rule 2 '-ed' becomes /d/ following loud consonants such as b, g, j, l, m, n, r, v, w, z and any vowel sound. Loud consonants make your throat vibrate.

listened, used, changed, played, showed

Rule 3 '-ed' becomes /ɪd/ if the verb ends with t or d. Note: This makes the word longer by one syllable: 'end' (1), 'ended' (2)

visited, ended, waited, added

Interactive practice

- Choose a verb from the *Actions (regular verbs)* list, like "kick." Ask your tutor, "Tell me a story of one time when you kicked something." Remember to pronounce the -ed.
- Your tutor answers the question. They also try to remember to use the -ed. Then, switch roles. Do three or four verbs each.

5 Choose the pronunciation /t/, /d/, or /ɪd/ and then say the words out loud for your tutor.

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| ▶ learned |d..... | c) visited | | f) needed | |
| a) accepted | | d) closed | | g) kicked | |
| b) liked | | e) opened | | h) cried | |

Choose a picture. Tell the story of what these people did yesterday. Say a few sentences: Try to imagine a real story. Remember to use the past. Then, it is your tutor's turn. Alternate to do three pictures each.



Yesterday, Elijah...



Yesterday, the whole family...



Yesterday, Jayden and Avery...



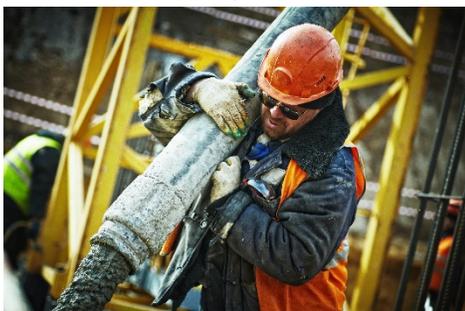
Yesterday, Aurora...



Yesterday, the musicians...



Yesterday, Isaiah...



Yesterday, Maverick...



Yesterday, Aaliyah...



Yesterday, Adalya...

Can in the past: Could

Lila could speak Italian as a child.

We use 'can' to say things we have the ability to do **now**.

*Can you play the saxophone?
Penelope can dance better than me.
Jayce can't lift more than ten pounds.*

We use 'could' to say things we had the ability to do in the **past**.

*Lila could speak Italian as a child.
I could run a marathon when I was younger.*

The negative of 'could' is 'could not'. We say 'couldn't' when we talk.

When I was five years old, I couldn't tie my shoes.

 **Interactive practice.** Use the following questions to have a chat with your tutor:

- What are some activities, actions, sports, or jobs that you can do now, but you couldn't do when you were a child or a teenager?
- What are some activities that you can't do now, but you could do when you were a child or a teenager? It could be just because you don't have the time, anymore, or you're too old for that.



Unit review

Modals: "I can play the guitar."

Let's chat! Ask your tutor, "So, what did you do this week?" Your tutor will tell you a few things they did this week, specifying the day: "On Sunday, I went to the store." They have to remember to use the past, and if the verb is a regular verb, it is important to pronounce the -ed. Then, it's your turn! You can use the list for *Actions (regular verbs)* for inspiration.



6 What could you do at ten years old? Write sentences using 'I could' or 'I couldn't' (your choice!) with the words in the box.

write stories speak English play the piano play soccer take the bus by myself run fast

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-
-
-
-
-

Vocabulary review: Actions (regular verbs). Draw a line to connect the words to the pictures.

to pick up		to show		to visit	
to carry		to look		to help	
to change		to watch		to cook	
to open		to listen		to work	
to close		to wait		to play	

7 Write answers to the following questions in complete sentences. Next, your tutor will ask you these questions. Answer and remember to pronounce the -ed on verbs.

- ▶ What did you watch last night? (Netflix) *I watched Netflix.*
- a) Who did you visit last week? (my grandmother)
- b) Where did you work yesterday? (at the library)
- c) What did you open this morning? (a parcel)
- d) What did you listen to on the radio? (rap music)
- e) Who did you pick up at the bus station? (my best friend)
- f) Who did you wait for at school? (the teacher)
- g) What did you use to make this recipe? (a pound of butter)

Recommended homework

Choose one or more activities



Reading and watching. Use your phone's camera or a "QR Code scanner" to open these pages.



Watch a TV episode on CBC Gem. (It's free!) One good choice is *Schitt's Creek*.
<https://gem.cbc.ca/>



Read "The Pet Store," from Lingua.
<https://lingua.com/english/reading/pets/>



Watch "Learn 60 English Action Verbs," by Bob the Canadian.
https://youtu.be/vA-uEPEHU_M

Writing topic: Write a short paragraph describing three talents and abilities you have. Introduce each ability with 'I can...' and then write a few details about it. Then, write a paragraph to compare with talents or abilities that you had when you were younger. Remember to use the past for this.



End of Unit A1-13.

Answers. ① A. Emily can eat bananas, but she can't eat peanut butter. B. Emily can speak Russian, but she can't speak Japanese. C. Emily can drive a car, but she can't drive a motorcycle. D. Emily can play the violin, but she can't play the guitar. E. Emily can drink green tea, but she can't drink coffee.
② A. Can he sing? B. Can she teach? C. Can you play an instrument? D. Can they ski? E. Can she paint? F. Can he cook? G. Can they drive? ③ A. to open B. to close C. to look D. to help E. to kick F. to carry G. to listen H. to cook I. to clean J. to change K. to play L. to use M. to work N. to visit O. to pick up P. to watch Q. to finish R. to wait S. to show T. to smoke ④ A. He cooked soup. B. No, they didn't. C. She finished her homework two hours ago. D. I watched a movie on television. E. He used my car last night. F. Yes, he did. G. We pickup up garbage in the schoolyard. ⑤ A. -id B. -t C. -id D. -d E. -d F. -id G. -t H. -d ⑥ **Answers will vary.** A. I could write stories. B. I couldn't speak English. C. I could play the piano. D. I could play soccer. E. I couldn't take the bus by myself. F. I could run fast. ⑦ A. I visited my grandmother (-id). B. I worked at the library. (-t) C. I opened a parcel. (-d) D. I listened to rap music on the radio. (-d) E. I picked up my best friend at the bus station. (-t) F. I waited for the teacher at school. (-id) G. I used a pound of butter to make this recipe. (-d)



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