

Simple Present: Can, Can't

FORM:

I can
You can
He can
She can
It can

We can
You can
They can

Negative: To make the negative, use “cannot” or the contraction “can't”

USE: I **cannot** play the piano.

USE: I **can't** play the piano.

Remember: After “can” use

the

base form of the verb.

USE: I **can play** the piano.

NOT: I **can to play** the piano

Interrogative: To make yes/no questions with can, put “can” in front of the subject.

USE: **Can** you play the piano?

For short answers:

USE: **Yes, I can. No, I can't.**

USE: The modal verb **can** is used to talk about something that is possible because certain conditions apply.

- To talk about something possible because of natural ability.
E.g. *I can see.*
A dog can bark.
- To talk about something possible because of learned ability. We can also use “**know how to**” to talk about learned ability.
E.g. *I can cook.* *I know how to cook.*
He can't drive. *He doesn't know how to drive.*
- To talk about something possible because external conditions allow it.
E.g. *I can meet you at the airport tomorrow. (I have a car and I have time.)*
- To ask for and give permission informally.
E.g. *Can I leave now?*

Beginner 1 – Exercise 27 – Simple Present: Can, Can't

Write a sentence that is true about your learned ability using CAN and the words given.

1. play tennis

2. speak French

3. cook Japanese food

4. draw cartoons

5. ski

Write a YES/NO QUESTION for the statement given.

1. I can go to the movies tonight.

2. She can write correctly.

3. He can understand Japanese.

4. They can dance well.

5. We can use the computers after class.
