

Can (ability)

Forma affermativa

I	can	swim.
You	can	swim.
He	can	swim.
She	can	swim.
It	can	swim.
We	can	swim.
You	can	swim.
They	can	swim.

soggetto + **can** + forma base del verbo + ...

can significa:

essere
capace di

essere in grado di

saper fare
qualcosa

can appartiene alla classe dei verbi modali e ha le seguenti proprietà:

- > non prende mai la **-s** alla terza persona singolare e rimane quindi **invariato**.
- > è sempre seguito dalla forma base del verbo principale **senza il to**.
- > non usa mai l'ausiliare **do** alla forma negativa o interrogativa.

He can speak English.

can nelle domande serve per:

chiedere

e chiedere il permesso

can è un verbo modale difettivo, è solo **presente non esiste**:

- > forma interrogativa
- > futuro
- > infinito

non confondere **can** con il sostantivo plurale **cans** = lattine



CAN



PERMISSION

to ask for or give permission

You can use my pencils.

POSSIBILITY

to express possibility

He can guess why she is angry.

ABILITY

to talk about ability to do sth in the present or future

We can dance very well.

REQUEST

to make requests (in questions)

Can we have her address?

OFFER

to make offers (in questions)

Can I do anything for you?

GENERAL TRUTHS

to talk about sth that is usually true, not always.

Exercise can help reduce stress.

SUGGESTION

to make suggestion

If you want, we can drink sth.

Modal Verbs

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CAN	Ability	I can speak Spanish.
	Permission	Can I go to bathroom?
	Probability	It can't be Mark. He is in London.
COULD	Past ability	He could speak French when he was 6 years old.
	Past permission	He could go to theater.
	Probability (40%)	It could get much hotter in July.
	Request	I could lend you my notebook.
MAY	Probability (50%)	It may snow tomorrow.
	Permission	May I come in?
MIGHT	Probability (35% or less)	It might rain today.
MUST	Prohibition	You mustn't speak loudly. It is hospital.
	Deduction/probability (100%)	The teacher must be Mark. I've seen his bicycle outside.
SHOULD	Advice	You shouldn't smoke. It is unhealthy.
WILL	Prediction	I think he will study harder this time.
	Spontaneous decision	Oh, it's very hot today. I'll open the window.





Modals, Concept & Examples

Could	Possibility	Extreme rain could cause the river to flood the village.
	Permission Request	Could I use your notebook please? Could you tell me the way to the library please?
May	Possibility	That may be a better solution for you.
	Permission	"You may buy something, if you wish," said her grandfather..
Might	Slight possibility	This team might win the game, but I doubt it.
	Past form of may (reported speech)	The doctor said he might be late.
Can	Ability	Mary can play piano.
	Permission	You can look at this.
	Offers	Can I help you father?
Should	Advice	I think you should buy the blue one.
	Logical deduction	I've revised so I should be ready for math exam.
Will	Future tense auxiliary	Next week I will be in London.
	Invitations	Will they join us for play footbal?

