

Can and Can't (ability) – Test 1



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Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 30

Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each question.

Part 1: Affirmative and negative sentences

Choose the correct word or sentence.

- My sister _____ swim. She is a good swimmer.
A cans B can C is can D can to
- Tom _____ drive. He is only ten.
A don't can B can C can't D not can
- I can _____ the guitar.
A plays B playing C to play D play
- Choose the correct sentence.
A She can speaks French. B She cans speak French.
C She can speak French. D She can to speak French.
- Birds can fly, but fish _____.
A can B not can C isn't D can't
- We _____ cook. We always eat at a restaurant.
A can't B not can C no can D can
- Find the mistake: My brother can to ride a bike very well.
A My brother B can to ride C a bike D very well
- Ana is only two months old. She _____ walk.
A can B cans C can't D can not to
- I can sing, _____ I can't dance.
A and B so C or D but
- Choose the correct negative of "He can read."
A He can't read. B He doesn't can read.
C He can't reads. D He not can read.

Part 2: Questions and short answers

Choose the correct question, answer or word.

- _____ you speak Spanish?
A Do can B Can C Are D Cans
- "Can your dad cook?" "Yes, he _____."
A does B cans C can D is

13. "Can you ski?" "No, I _____."
A can't **B** don't **C** not **D** can
14. Choose the correct question.
A Does she can play tennis? **B** Can she plays tennis?
C Can play she tennis? **D** Can she play tennis?
15. "What _____ you do?" "I can draw and paint."
A do can **B** are **C** can **D** does
16. "Can they come to the party?" "No, they _____."
A aren't **B** don't **C** not **D** can't
17. Put the words in order: the piano / can / play / your friend / ?
A Can your friend the piano play? **B** Can your friend play the piano?
C Can play your friend the piano? **D** Your friend play can the piano?
18. "Can Lucy and Omar speak Chinese?" "Yes, _____ can."
A they **B** she **C** we **D** he
19. Find the mistake: Can your cat climbs trees?
A Can **B** your cat **C** climbs **D** trees
20. Choose the correct response: "Can you ride a horse?"
A No, I don't. **B** No, I can't. **C** Yes, I can't. **D** No, I can.

Part 3: Reading and review

Read the text. Then choose the correct answer.

My name is Kenji. I am twelve years old. I can do many things, but I can't do everything! I can swim very well, and I can run fast. I can't play football, but I can play basketball.

My best friend is Maria. She can speak three languages: English, Spanish and Italian. I can only speak English and a little Japanese. Maria can't swim, so on Saturdays I help her at the swimming pool.

My little brother, Leo, is four. He can't read or write, but he can count to twenty. My grandmother is seventy, and she can use a computer! She can't ride a bike, but she can drive a car.

21. Kenji _____ play football.
A can't **B** can **C** doesn't **D** isn't
22. Can Maria swim?
A Yes, she can. **B** No, she isn't. **C** Yes, she can't. **D** No, she can't.
23. How many languages can Maria speak?
A two **B** three **C** four **D** one
24. Leo can _____.
A read **B** write **C** count to twenty **D** ride a bike
25. Which sentence is true?
A Kenji can speak Italian. **B** Maria can swim very well.
C Kenji's grandmother can drive a car. **D** Leo can write his name.

26. What can Kenji do?
A He can swim and run fast. **B** He can play football.
C He can speak three languages. **D** He can't swim.
27. My grandmother is seventy, and she _____ a computer.
A can uses **B** can use **C** cans use **D** can using
28. Which sentence means the same as "Leo is not able to read"?
A Leo can read. **B** Leo can't reads.
C Leo doesn't can read. **D** Leo can't read.
29. I _____ hear you. The music is very loud!
A can **B** am not **C** can't **D** don't can
30. Choose the correct sentence.
A They can't speaks French, but they can speak German.
B They don't can speak French, but they can speak German.
C They can't speak French, but they can speak German.
D They can't to speak French, but they can speak German.

Answer key – Can and Can't (ability) – Test 1

1 B	2 C	3 D	4 C	5 D	6 A	7 B	8 C	9 D	10 A
11 B	12 C	13 A	14 D	15 C	16 D	17 B	18 A	19 C	20 B
21 A	22 D	23 B	24 C	25 C	26 A	27 B	28 D	29 C	30 C

Explanations

- B** – Can is the same for all persons and never takes -s.
- C** – A ten-year-old is not able to drive, so we use the negative can't.
- D** – After can we use the base form of the verb without to.
- C** – The structure is subject + can + base verb, with no -s and no to.
- D** – Fish are not able to fly, and the negative of can is can't.
- A** – They always eat at a restaurant because they are not able to cook, so can't is correct.
- B** – We do not use to after can: the correct form is can ride.
- C** – A two-month-old baby is not able to walk, so we use can't + base verb.
- D** – But joins two contrasting ideas: one thing I can do and one thing I can't do.
- A** – The negative is can't + base verb, without do/does and without -s.
- B** – Questions with can start with can + subject + base verb.
- C** – Short answers repeat can: Yes, he can.
- A** – The negative short answer to a can question is No, I can't.
- D** – The correct order is Can + subject + base verb, with no does and no -s.
- C** – The answer uses can, so the question is What can you do?
- D** – A question with can takes a short answer with can't.
- B** – Word order in questions is Can + subject + verb + object.
- A** – Lucy and Omar are two people, so the pronoun is they.
- C** – After can we use the base form climb, not climbs.
- B** – No goes with the negative can't in short answers.
- A** – The text says: I can't play football.
- D** – The text says Maria can't swim, and the short answer is No, she can't.
- B** – Maria can speak English, Spanish and Italian: three languages.
- C** – The text says Leo can't read or write, but he can count to twenty.
- C** – The text says the grandmother can't ride a bike, but she can drive a car.
- A** – Kenji says: I can swim very well, and I can run fast.
- B** – Can is followed by the base verb use, with no -s or -ing.
- D** – Not able to means can't, followed by the base verb.
- C** – Because the music is loud, I am not able to hear, so we use can't.
- C** – Both can and can't are followed by the base verb, with no -s, no to and no do.

Notes for teachers: Use this test after introducing can/can't for ability, or as a quick review. It targets typical A1 errors: adding -s to can or the main verb (cans, can speaks), using to after can, and using do/does with can (don't can, Does she can...?). As a follow-up, ask students to write five sentences about what they and a friend can and can't do, then interview each other with Can you...? questions.