

Can and Can't (ability) – Worksheet 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 36



Do this worksheet
online and check your
answers instantly

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences

Write *can* or *can't* and the verb in brackets. ✓ = yes, ✗ = no.

Example: She ___ (sing). ✓ → can sing

1. Lucy _____ (speak) English. ✓
2. My little brother _____ (read). ✗
3. Cats _____ (talk). ✗
4. We _____ (play) the piano. ✓
5. Kenji _____ (ride) a bike. ✓
6. I _____ (cook) fish. ✗

Exercise 2: Use the words in the box

Complete the sentences with a word from the box. There are two extra words.

WORD BOX

swim drive speak play ride cook swims playing

7. Fish can _____, but they can't walk.
8. Babies can't _____ a car.
9. Can you _____ Spanish?
10. My brother can _____ the guitar.
11. I can _____ a bike, but I can't ride a horse.
12. Tom can _____ pasta and pizza for dinner.

Exercise 3: Short answers

Match each question with the correct short answer from the box. ✓ = yes, ✗ = no. There are two extra answers.

WORD BOX

Yes, I can. No, she can't. Yes, they can. No, he can't. Yes, we can. No, it can't. Yes, I do.
No, she doesn't.

13. Can you swim? ✓ → _____

14. Can Maria drive? X → _____
15. Can your parents dance? ✓ → _____
16. Can Ben speak Italian? X → _____
17. Can you and your sister skate? ✓ → _____
18. Can a penguin fly? X → _____

Exercise 4: Rewrite the sentences

Rewrite each sentence as shown in brackets.

Example: Mia can swim. (question) → Can Mia swim?

19. Sara can ski. (negative)

20. They can dance. (question)

21. He can read music. (negative)

22. The cat can open the door. (question)

23. We can't speak Chinese. (positive)

24. Leo can play tennis. (question)

Exercise 5: Find the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

Example: He can runs fast. → He can run fast.

25. She can swims very well.

26. I can to speak French.

27. He cans play the piano.

28. Do you can cook?

29. They don't can drive.

30. Can she sing?

Exercise 6: Put the words in order

Put the words in the correct order to make sentences or questions.

Example: can / he / cook → He can cook.

31. can / I / fast / run

32. you / can / swim / ?

33. can't / my / cook / dad

34. play / can / they / football / ?

35. the / she / can / guitar / play

36. ride / Emma / can / a / horse / ?

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

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences

1. **can speak**
✓ means yes, so use can + base verb.
2. **can't read**
X means no, so use can't (cannot) + base verb.
3. **can't talk**
Use can't for things that are not possible.
4. **can play**
Can is the same for all persons: we can play.
5. **can ride**
After can, the verb has no -s: can ride, not can rides.
6. **can't cook**
The negative of can is can't or cannot.

Exercise 2: Use the words in the box

7. **swim**
After can, use the base verb: swim.
8. **drive**
We drive a car.
9. **speak**
We speak a language.
10. **play**
We play an instrument; use the base form, not playing.
11. **ride**
We ride a bike.
12. **cook**
We cook food.

Exercise 3: Short answers

13. **Yes, I can.**
Answer 'you' with I, and repeat can.
14. **No, she can't.**
Maria = she; the negative short answer is No, she can't.
15. **Yes, they can.**
Your parents = they.
16. **No, he can't.**
Ben = he; use can't, not doesn't.
17. **Yes, we can.**
You and your sister = we.
18. **No, it can't.**
For an animal, use it.

Exercise 4: Rewrite the sentences

19. **Sara can't ski.**
Make the negative with can't or cannot.
20. **Can they dance?**
In questions, can goes before the subject.
21. **He can't read music.**
Add n't to can: can't.
22. **Can the cat open the door?**
Put can at the start of the question.
23. **We can speak Chinese.**
Remove n't to make the positive sentence.
24. **Can Leo play tennis?**
Can + subject + base verb + ?

Exercise 5: Find the mistake

25. **She can swim very well.**
No -s on the verb after can.
26. **I can speak French.**
Don't use to after can.
27. **He can play the piano.**
Can never takes -s.
28. **Can you cook?**
Don't use do with can in questions.
29. **They can't drive.**
The negative is can't, not don't can.
30. **Can she sing?**
In questions, the verb after can is also the base form.

Exercise 6: Put the words in order

31. **I can run fast.**
Subject + can + verb.
32. **Can you swim?**
Questions start with can.
33. **My dad can't cook.**
Subject + can't + verb.
34. **Can they play football?**
Can + subject + verb + object?
35. **She can play the guitar.**
Subject + can + verb + the + instrument.
36. **Can Emma ride a horse?**
Can + subject + verb + object?

Notes for teachers: Start by miming actions (swim, cook, play the guitar) and asking 'Can you...?' so students hear the question and short answers before writing. Typical mistakes include adding -s to the verb after can (she can swims), using 'to' (can to speak), and using do in questions (Do you can...?). As a follow-up, students survey classmates with 'Can you...?' questions and report back: 'Ana can ski, but she can't skate.'