

CAN, COULD AND CAN'T

1 GRAMMAR EXPLANATION

Task 1: Read the explanation of when to use can and could.

"Can / Could"
We use "can" to ask to do something. Example: Can I open the window, please? For questions and requests, "could" is the same as "can" but it is more polite. Example: Could I open the window, please?
"Can".
We also use "can" to tell other people they are allowed do something: Example: Students can always ask questions during the class.

Task 2: Read about how to use negative form.

Can't
We use "can't" to say what you must not do.

Task 3: In your own words, summarise when you should use can, could, and can't.



2 LET'S MAKE SENTENCES AND QUESTIONS

Study how to form questions and sentences with the can and could.

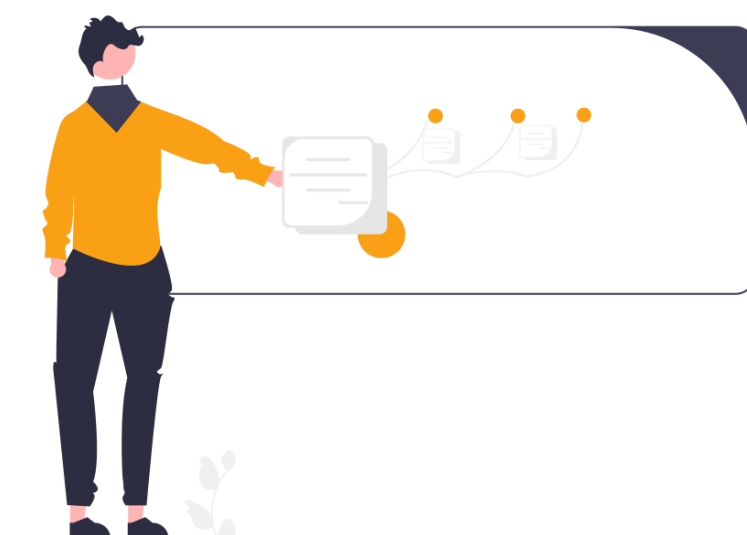
Questions with using can or could.		
Can Could	I you he she it we they	+ infinitive + ?

Positive and negative statements.		
I You He She It We They	can	+ infinitive
	can't	

Task 1: Work in pairs to create five questions using "can" and "could".

Task 2: Work individually and create 5 positive sentences using "can" and "could".

Task 3: Work individually and create 5 negative sentences using "can't".



3 PICTURE ROUND

Look at the pictures and ask for permission using “can” or “could”.

	Can / could I drink some water?
	Can / could I go to the toilet?
	Can / could I answer the question?
	Can / could I use the phone?
	Can / could I close the door?

4 COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences using; can, could or can't. Some of the answers may be open to interpretation so explain why you chose each verb.

1. **Can / could** I use your pencil? Mine is broken.
2. Sorry, but you **can't** talk in the library. Please be quiet.
3. **Can / could** I borrow your car for today?
4. The teacher said we **can / could** leave the classroom early today.
5. I'm afraid you **can't** bring your pet to school. It's against the rules.
6. **Can / could** I answer the phone?
7. You **can't** eat here. Please go outside of the classroom.
8. **Can / could** you contact your teacher outside school?
9. Teachers **can't** park their cars here. The parking spot is for the principal.
10. **Can / could** I ask you something after class?
11. **Can / could** we stay up a little later tonight?
12. Sorry, but you **can't** bring your dog to our house. My mom is afraid of dogs.

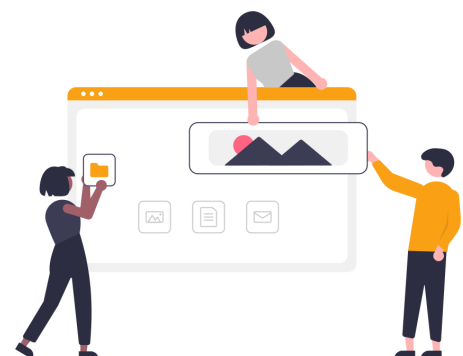


5 COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences using can, could or can't, and a verb from the grid below.

go	watch	play	sleep	park	have
eat	run	drink	open	talk	send

1. You **can't play** here. Please go to the playground.
2. **Can / could** we **eat** some chips in class?
3. The children **can watch** T.V for 30 minutes before they have to go to bed.
4. I **can't go** on holiday because I lost my passport.
5. The students **can't run** at school. Running is only allowed outside.
6. **Can / could** students **sleep** during break time? We're tired.
7. Children **can't drink** coffee. The parents don't let them.
8. You **can't park** your car in front of our house! Please go somewhere else.
9. **Can / could** I **send** you an email?
10. **Can / could** we **open** all the windows, please? It's so hot today.
11. You **can't have** a cake and an ice cream. Pick one. .
12. You **can't talk** in the library.



6 CORRECT THE MISTAKES

Correct any mistakes you find. Be careful as not all the sentences have mistakes.

1. Can I **open** the window, please?
2. Students can't always ask questions during class.
3. You **can't** eat in English class.
4. Can I bring my dog to the restaurant?
5. Students can't use their cell phones during class.
6. Can I **take** a break from studying?
7. Could we **call** the doctor later today?
8. Can you **come** to my house tonight?
9. Some animals can't **travel** on the train.
10. We **can't** go there without asking the teachers first.
11. Could I **use** your phone, please?
12. We **can't** ride bikes inside the house.





7 CONVERSATIONS

Complete the conversations using; can, can't or could.

Billy:	Can / could I borrow your phone, please? Mine is not working.
Jen:	Sure. Here you go.
Billy:	Can / could I have your password?
Jen:	Yes, it's 3455.
Billy:	Thanks. Wow! What is this picture on your phone?
Jen:	Hey, stop! You can't look at the pictures on my phone!

Conversation 2:

James:	Hey, can / could I borrow your bike for a quick ride?
Kelly:	Yes, you can borrow it. Be careful there is a lot of traffic.
James:	Thanks. Can / could I take it for 30 minutes?
Kelly:	Sure, take your time.
James:	Great, thanks! Can / could I use your bike lock?

Conversation 3:

Ian:	Can / could I have some water, please?
Sarah:	Of course. You can get a glass of water from the kitchen.
Ian:	Ok, thank you.
Sarah:	Remember, you can't bring water into class.
Ian:	No problem. I will only drink water in the kitchen.
Sarah:	Great. Please can / could you close the door?

8 WRITING PRACTICE

Rewrite the sentences using the words in brackets.

1. It is not allowed to park here. (*can't*)
We can't park here.
2. May I call my sister, please? (*could*)
Could I call my sister, please?
3. Is it ok if I go outside now? (*can*)
Can I go outside now?
4. Is it possible to bring food to the library? (*can*)
Can I bring food to the library?
5. Children are not allowed to bring phones to school. (*can't*)
Children can't bring phones to school.
6. Using your phone is not allowed in class. (*can't*)
You can't use your phone in class.
7. Is it ok if we join you for lunch? (*can*)
Can we join you for lunch?
8. Will I get a ticket if I park my car here? (*can*)
Can I get a ticket if I park my car here?
9. I would like one more piece of cake, please. (*could*)
Could I have one more piece of cake, please?
10. Students are free to ask questions at any time. (*can*)
Students can ask questions at any time.



9 SPEAKING PRACTICE

Task 1: Study the “School Rules” poster and say what students can and can’t do.



Task 2: Make questions based on the poster using **can** or **could**.

- For example, can the students ask questions?

Task 3: Answer the questions created in task 2 using **can** or **can't**.

- For example, yes, the students can ask questions.

