Can and Can't Worksheet: Ability and Permission

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NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
can + base verb (same for all persons)	I can swim. She can drive.
can't (cannot) + base verb	He can't cook.
Questions: Can + subject + base verb? · Yes, I can. / No, I can't.	Can you speak French?
Requests and permission	Can you help me? Can I open the window?

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
I can to play the piano.	I can play the piano.
She cans dance.	She can dance.
Do you can help me?	Can you help me?

1. Complete

Complete with can or can't and the verb in brackets.

1. Fish _____ (breathe) under water. (+)
2. I _____ (hear) you. The music is too loud! (–)
3. _____ you _____ (ride) a horse?
4. My grandmother _____ (use) a smartphone. She's great with technology. (+)
5. We _____ (park) here. It's not allowed. (–)
6. _____ I _____ (borrow) your pen?
7. Babies _____ (walk) when they are born. (–)
8. She _____ (speak) four languages. (+)

2. Choose

Circle the correct option.

1. He can (swim / swims / to swim) very fast.
2. Can you cook? Yes, I (can / do).
3. (Can I / I can) use your phone?
4. Sorry, I (can't / don't can) come tonight.
5. (Can you / Do you can) help me?
6. Can she drive? No, she (can't / doesn't).
7. My dog can (open / opens) the door.
8. We (can / cans) see the sea from our hotel.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. She can sings very well.
2. I can't to understand.
3. You can speak English? (question)
4. He cans play chess.
5. Can I to sit here?
6. Can you swim? Yes, I swim.

Writing

Write 6 sentences about what you and people you know can and can't do: sports, languages, cooking, music, technology.

Speaking

- What can you do well? What can't you do at all?
- Can you cook a typical dish from your country? Which one?
- What can people do in your city at the weekend?
- What is something you want to learn to do this year?

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 can breathe · 2 can't hear · 3 Can … ride · 4 can use · 5 can't park · 6 Can … borrow · 7 can't walk · 8 can speak

2. Choose: 1 swim · 2 can · 3 Can I · 4 can't · 5 Can you · 6 can't · 7 open · 8 can

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 She can sing very well. · 2 I can't understand. · 3 Can you speak English? · 4 He can play chess. · 5 Can I sit here? · 6 Yes, I can.

Writing, model answer: I can speak Spanish and English, but I can't speak French. I can cook pasta very well. My dad can fix almost anything in the house. My sister can play the guitar and sing. My best friend can't swim, but she can run ten kilometres. I can't drive yet.