

I'm not a bot



paraphrased text here can be used to express ability or opportunity, to request or offer permission, and to show possibility or impossibility in English, particularly with the modal verb "can". This term has a complex history, dating back to Old English and its relation to Germanic languages such as German and Old Norse. The use of can is widespread in everyday conversation, and its nuances are essential for mastering the language. # Can be used in various contexts, including expressing ability or opportunity In modern English, "can" is a versatile modal verb that serves multiple purposes. It can be employed to express someone's capability or possibility, request permission, or convey uncertainty. ## Can be used to express ability or opportunity The term "can" is frequently used in sentences such as "I can ride a horse." This example highlights one of the primary functions of the modal verb - expressing an individual's capability. ## Can be used to request permission or offer assistance Another frequent usage of "can" is when someone asks for permission or offers assistance. For instance, the phrase "Can you hand me the stapler?" demonstrates how this modal verb can be utilized in everyday interactions. ## Can be used to convey possibility or impossibility In addition to expressing ability or requesting permission, 'can' can also indicate whether something is possible or not. The sentence "She cannot stay out after 10 PM" illustrates this, as it explicitly states that staying out is not permitted due to a specific time constraint. ## Can exhibit irregular behavior in the past and future Unlike some other modal verbs, "can" often behaves irregularly when used with prepositions or auxiliary verbs. This can make its usage more challenging for learners. However, studying how this verb functions in different contexts can help improve understanding. ### Understanding Can's Positive Forms To master the use of "can," it is essential to comprehend its positive forms. - **Present**+: The present tense of "can" is used when describing a general ability or possibility. For example, "I can speak Chinese." - **Past**+: In the past tense, "can" indicates an action that was possible or took place. For instance, "I could have spoken French if I had attended the language course." - **Future**+: When expressing future capability, "can" is used before auxiliary verbs like "be able to." Thus, "I will be able to speak Spanish by graduation." ### Understanding Can's Negative Forms The negative forms of "can," such as "-not can" or "can't," are crucial for accurately conveying uncertainty or impossibility: - **Present**+: When indicating that something is not possible in the present, you would say "She can't sing." - **Past**+: To express that an action was impossible or could not happen at some point, you would use "I could not attend." - **Future**+: In contrast to speaking ability, when stating a negative future capability, you would say, "He won't be able to finish the project by Friday." ### Understanding Can's Irregular Behavior Due to its irregular behavior with prepositions and auxiliary verbs, mastering the nuances of "can" is crucial for precise communication. This includes recognizing how it functions in idiomatic expressions, which can sometimes cause confusion. ### Using Can Properly in Contexts Understanding when to use "can" is essential for effective communication in English. It helps convey ability, permission requests, or possibility, depending on the context and situation. ### Common Misconceptions About Can While using "can" might seem straightforward, there are several misconceptions about its behavior that can lead to misunderstandings. For example, some people believe that "can" is interchangeable with other modal verbs like "could," but this is not always the case. Familiarizing yourself with these nuances ensures you communicate effectively. ### Conclusion Mastering the use of the English modal verb "can" requires a thorough understanding of its various functions, behaviors, and forms. From expressing ability to requesting permission or conveying possibility, grasping how this versatile term works will enhance your language skills. Can I have a glass of water? Can you give me a lift to school? Can't I have a glass of water? Can't you give me a lift to school? Anyone can become rich and famous if they know the right people. Learning a language can be a real challenge. It may cost more than a dollar or two. You could not be 45! I thought you were about 18 years old. Could Exercises Learn English at Englishpage.com! SINGAPORE: After a Reddit user asked, "Help me think of some Singlish phrases to teach a friend?" many commenters obliged, supplying what they feel are among the most helpful Singlish-isms. "My friend from the UK loves Singlish and he's been learning a few common Singlish phrases. He found on google 'die die must try' and 'own time own target' which he loved and has since been using loads – can you think of any more common or funny ones that I can teach him?" wrote u/rohorolo on r/askSingapore on Thursday (July 20). The post spawned a lively discussion as Redditors riffed on the topic, with many of them citing the often-used "can" and its adjacent words as among the most useful. "Master the difference between the following: 'Can lah, Can meh, Can lor Can one (Can wan). Plus all the tonal differences of 'CAN OR NOT.' " One wrote, "My expat colleagues love 'can is can, cannot is cannot.'" See also How to Implement Teacher Parking Charges Without Affecting Morale Another chimed in that "Can lah" can have many meanings. "a favorite of my non sinkie friends seems to be: Can. should we go for dinner? can what should we eat? anything also can din tainfung? caaaaan," wrote another. This led to a Reddit user writing that even "Can" may be said in several ways. Another wrote, "teach him now to use 'can'. This one can? 'can. can meh? 'can is can la.'" "Can is Can but cannot also must can," wrote another. One contributed, "Cry father cry mother. Catch no ball. One times good one. Don't play play. Wake up your idea. Own time own target. Expats love the word 'can'. They get so amused how useful and encompassing it is." Another suggested, "ownself check ownself." "Say people say yourself," was another contribution, with the Reddit user adding, "Such an amazing phrase that'll show a Singaporean apart from foreigners. All English words, but you can't understand it unless you know Singlish." One came up with a list of other "Singlish-isms." "One times good one," was an example supplied by a Reddit user. "CHOPE 'chōp' transitive verb (Singapore slang); To reserve a seat in a place to eat by placing a tissue packet on it," wrote another. /TISG "No perfect English, never mind... after all, lot of Singaporeans speak Singlish" — Netizens respond to George Goh's statement on the advantage of imperfect English If you try harder, you can reach your goals.Page 2The first conditional deals with situations that are likely to happen in the future if a certain condition is fulfilled. On the other hand, the zero conditional is used to express a general truth, a scientific fact, or something that is always true when a certain condition is met.With regards to structure, both types consist of a condition clause and a main clause. However, in the first conditional, the condition clause is usually formed with the present simple tense, and the main clause is formed with a modal verb (like will, can, should, etc.) plus the base form of the verb, while in zero conditionals, both clauses are formed with the present simple tense. Compare the examples:ExampleIf you mix red and blue, you get purple.This is zero type conditional, it expresses a general truth; therefore, there are no modals in the main clause.If you promise to be you can drive my car.This is type I conditional and the modal 'can' is used in the main clause.Page 3'Can' and 'be able to' generally have the same meaning when used to talk about abilities, and in most situations either one can be used. However, 'be able to' is considered more formal than 'can', and may be more appropriate in formal or professional contexts.ExampleI can play the piano. = I am able to play the piano.I could jump very high when I was younger. = I was able to jump very high when I was younger.Additionally, 'can' and 'could' cannot be used in every verb tense and form, because they are modals and do not conjugate. When using perfect tenses or gerunds to talk about abilities, it is more appropriate to use 'be able to'.ExampleI have been able to dance since I was three years old.Here, we cannot use 'can' or 'could' and still convey the same meaning.I like being able to watch my favorite TV shows on YouTube.Verbs such as 'like' take a gerund as complement. So we cannot use 'can' or 'could' after them.On the other hand, 'can' and 'could' are used with verbs such as see, hear, understand, notice, etc. that denote an involuntary action. 'Be able to' is not typically used with these verbs.ExampleDo not say "I am able to hear a noise."I could understand every word he said.Do not say "I was able to understand every word he said."Page 4ShareThis article dives into "will" for future actions and "would" for hypothetical or polite scenarios. Detailed explanations and a quiz to test your knowledge.HomeGrammarmodals and semi modalswill and wouldPage 5In negatives and questions, the correct form is 'used to.' To form questions, use 'did' and to form a negative sentence, use 'didn't use to'.ExampleDidn't you use to have long hair?Didn't she use to go to our school?If we use 'used to' to mean; we did something regularly and frequently in the past; the rule is to use an infinitive without 'to' after used to.ExampleI used to go to school every day when I was 12.She used to be my friend.2. When 'used to' is accompanied by the verb 'be,' it talks about an action that you're accustomed to doing it and it's no longer strange.ExampleHe's used to the noise from the traffic now.He is accustomed to the noise from the traffic now.I'm used to getting up early.If we use 'used to' to mean we are accustomed to doing something; in this case, we have to use gerunds (verbs+ -ing) after 'used to'. Remember the structure is subject + be + used to + gerund.ExampleShe is used to lying. (NOT She is used to lie.)He's used to reading at bedtime.

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