

Can/can't





➤ **Can** is a modal verb.

➤ **Can** is used to express **ability** or to say that something is **possible**.

➤ **Can** is the same for all subjects. We don't add an 'S' in the third person (like other verbs)

➤ The verb that comes after **Can** is in the infinitive without **to**:

- I **can** speak Spanish. (= it is possible for me to speak Spanish = I have the ability to speak Spanish)
- He **can** swim well.
- We **can** see our neighbour in the garden.
- They **can** play the guitar.

➤ **Negative**

To form the negative we add "**not**" after **can** to form one word: **cannot**.

- We can also contract the negative to form **can't**. (can't = cannot)
- I **cannot** play the piano. We **can't** go to the cinema tonight.
- She **cannot** speak French very well. He **can't** drive a car.



► Questions

To form the question we change the position of the subject and the auxiliary verb. The main verb is still in the infinitive without *to*.

- Where **can** I *buy* an ice-cream?
- **Can** I go to the party, please?
- **Can** you *speak* Japanese?
- What **can** we *do* on Saturday?

► Remember that you can use short answers:

- Can I sit here please? **Yes, you can.**
- Can you speak Chinese? **No, I can't.**

