

A


He **can** play the piano. *Il sait jouer du piano.*

*Pouvez-vous ouvrir la porte, s'il vous plaît?*
**Can** est suivi de l'infinitif (**can do / can play / can come** etc.):

I/we/you/they he/she/it	<b>can</b> <b>can't (cannot)</b>	<b>do</b> <b>play</b> <b>see</b> <b>come</b> etc.
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<b>can</b>	I/we/you/they he/she/it	<b>do?</b> <b>play?</b> <b>see?</b> <b>come?</b> etc.
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Observez que la forme négative s'écrit en un seul mot: **cannot** (et non pas can not).

B

**I can** do something = 'je sais faire ...' ou 'je peux faire ...' ou 'je suis capable de faire' quelque chose.

- ☐ I **can play** the piano. My brother **can play** the piano too.
- ☐ Sarah **can speak** Italian, but she **can't speak** Spanish.
- ☐ 'Can you swim?' 'Yes, but I'm not a very good swimmer.' 'Sais-tu nager?' ...
- ☐ A: **Can** you **change** twenty pounds? *Pouvez-vous changer ... ?*  
B: I'm sorry. **I can't.** *Désolé, je ne peux pas.*
- ☐ I'm having a party next week, but Paul and Rachel **can't come.** ... *ne peuvent pas venir.*

En anglais, on emploie **can** avec les verbes de perception (**I can see / we can hear** etc.). En français, on dit simplement 'je vois', 'nous entendons', etc.

- ☐ **Can** you **hear** me? *Vous m'entendez?*
- ☐ I **can see** a light. *Je vois une lumière. (= je distingue une lumière)*

C

Au passé (yesterday / last week etc.) on emploie **could/couldn't**:

- ☐ When I was young, I **could run** very fast. ... *je courais très vite.*
- ☐ Before Maria came to Britain, she **couldn't understand** much English. Now she **can understand** everything.  
... *elle ne comprenait pas ... Maintenant elle comprend tout.*
- ☐ I was tired last night, but I **couldn't sleep.** ... *mais je ne pouvais pas dormir.*
- ☐ I had a party last week, but Paul and Rachel **couldn't come.** ... *n'ont pas pu venir.*

D

**Can you ... ? Could you ... ? Can I ... ? Could I ... ?**

On emploie **Can you ... ?** ou **Could you ... ?** pour demander quelque chose à quelqu'un:

- ☐ **Can you** open the door, please? ou **Could you** open the door, please?
- ☐ **Can you** wait a moment, please? ou **Could you** wait ... ?

On emploie **Can I have ... ?** ou **Could I have ... ?** pour demander quelque chose:

- ☐ (dans un magasin) **Can I have** these postcards, please? ou **Could I have ... ?**

**Can I ... ?** ou **Could I ... ?** = *Puis-je ... ?*

- ☐ Tom, **can I** borrow your umbrella? ou Tom, **could I** borrow your umbrella?
- ☐ (au téléphone) Hello, **can I** speak to Gary, please? ou ... **could I** speak ... ?



# Exercices

## Unité 31

31.1 Demandez à Steve s'il sait faire les choses suivantes:



You



Steve

1 Can you swim?

2 .....  
3 .....  
4 .....  
5 .....  
6 .....

Et vous? Répondez à ces mêmes questions en utilisant I can ou I can't.

7 I .....  
8 .....  
9 .....  
10 .....  
11 .....  
12 .....

31.2 Complétez les phrases en utilisant can ou can't + un des verbes suivants:

come find hear see speak

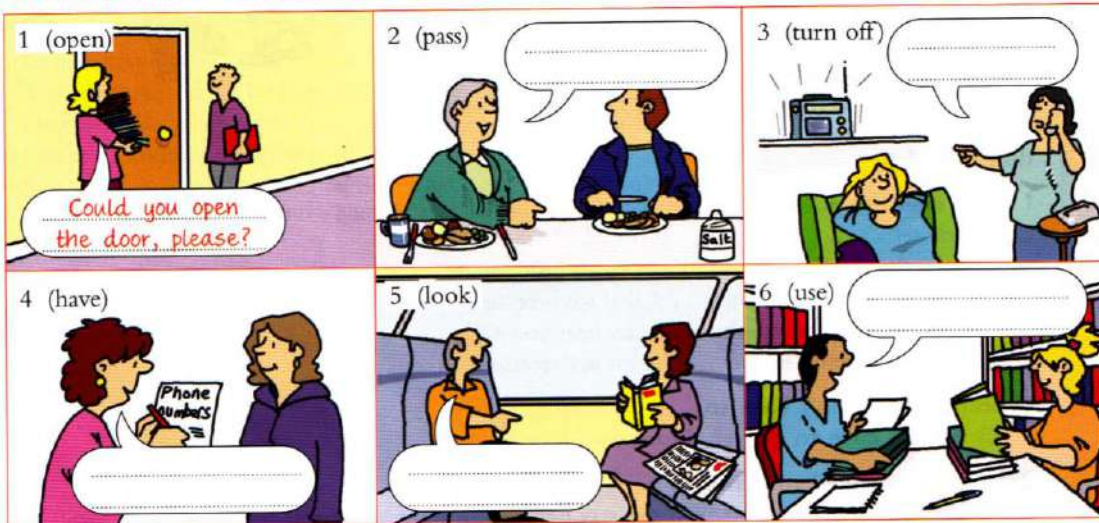
- 1 I'm sorry, but we can't come to your party next Saturday.
- 2 I like this hotel room. You ..... the mountains from the window.
- 3 You are speaking very quietly. I ..... you.
- 4 Have you seen my bag? I ..... it.
- 5 Catherine got the job because she ..... five languages.

31.3 Complétez les phrases ci-dessous en utilisant can't ou couldn't + un des verbes suivants:

decide eat find go go sleep

- 1 I was tired, but I couldn't sleep.
- 2 I wasn't hungry yesterday. I ..... my dinner.
- 3 Kate doesn't know what to do. She .....
- 4 I wanted to speak to Martin yesterday, but I ..... him.
- 5 James ..... to the concert next Saturday. He has to work.
- 6 Paula ..... to the meeting last week. She was ill.

31.4 Que dit-on dans les situations suivantes? Utilisez can ou could avec le verbe entre parenthèses.



31.1

- 2 Can you ski?
- 3 Can you play chess?
- 4 Can you run ten kilometres?
- 5 Can you drive (a car)?
- 6 Can you ride (a horse)?
- 7 I can/can't swim.
- 8 I can/can't ski.
- 9 I can/can't play chess.
- 10 I can/can't run ten kilometres.
- 11 I can/can't drive (a car).
- 12 I can/can't ride (a horse).

31.2

- 2 can see
- 4 can't find
- 3 can't hear
- 5 can speak

31.3

- 2 couldn't eat
- 3 can't decide
- 4 couldn't find
- 5 can't go
- 6 couldn't go

31.4

- 2 Can/Could you pass the salt (please)?
- 3 Can/Could you turn off the radio (please)?
- 4 Can/Could I have your phone number (please)?
- 5 Can/Could I look at your newspaper (please)? ou Can/Could I have a look at your newspaper (please)?
- 6 Can/Could I use your pen (please)?