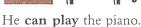
## can and could

Α







can + infinitive (can do / can play / can come etc.):

I/we/you/they he/she/it	can can't (cannot)	do play see come	tc.
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		do?
can	I/we/you/they he/she/it	play? see?
		come? etc.

В

I can do something = I know how to do it, or it is possible for me to do it:

- □ 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.'
- ☐ 'Can you change twenty pounds?' 'I'm sorry, I can't.'
- ☐ I'm having a party next week, but Paul and Rachel can't come.

C

For the past (yesterday / last week etc.), we use could/couldn't:

- □ When I was young, I **could run** very fast.
- □ Before Maria came to Britain, she **couldn't understand** much English. Now she **can understand** everything.
- □ I was tired last night, but I **couldn't sleep**.
- ☐ I had a party last week, but Paul and Rachel **couldn't come**.

D

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

We use Can you ...? or Could you ...? when we ask people to do things:

- Can you open the door, please? or Could you open the door, please?
- □ Can you wait a moment, please? or Could you wait ...?

We use Can I have ...? or Could I have ...? to ask for something:

(in a shop) Can I have these postcards, please? or Could I have ...?

**Can I** ... ? or **Could I** ... ? = is it OK to do something?:

- □ Tom, can I borrow your umbrella? or Tom, could I borrow your umbrella?
- (on the phone) Hello, can I speak to Gary, please? or ... could I speak ...?

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May I ... ? → Unit 29

Exercises Unit 30

30.1	Ask Steve if he can do these things:		
*	You  Can you swim?  Can you swim?		
	10 kilometres 5 6 3 4 5 6 6 5 6 6 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7		
	Can you do these things? Write sentences about yourself. Use I can or I can't.		
	7 I		
	8 11 12		
30.2	Complete these sentences. Use can or can't + one of these verbs:		
	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.		
30.3	Complete these sentences. Use can't or couldn't + one of these verbs:		
	decide eat find go go <del>sleep</del>		
	1 I was tired, but I <u>couldn't sleep</u> . 2 I wasn't hungry yesterday. I <u>my dinner.</u> 3 Kate doesn't know what to do. She <u></u>		
	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.		
30.4	What do you say in these situations? Use can or could.		

