

Lesson Two

Lesson objectives:

- To practise can, could and be able to

ACTIVATION

Complete the sentences so that they are true for you. Compare with a partner.

I have to...

I mustn't...

I ought to...

I needn't...

I don't have to...

I shouldn't...





Flipped lesson

Marina's extraordinary uses of ordinary things vocabulary task

<https://wordwall.net/play/31859/876/875>

GRAMMAR *can, could, and be able to*

Complete some more tips with the correct form of *can* or *be able to*.


- 1 If you cover your children's drawings with hairspray, you'll keep them for years.
- 2 You rescue soups or stews which are too salty by putting pieces of apple or potato in them.
- 3 If you haven't remove a water mark on wooden furniture, make a paste with salt and water and rub the mark with it.
- 4 If you want your candles to last longer, you try putting them in the freezer for two hours before lighting them.
- 5 If you find any silver polish at home, rub your silver jewellery with toothpaste.



Grammar Bank -


can, could, and be able to

ability, possibility, and permission

- 1 You **can** use a toothbrush to clean jewellery. I **can't** understand these instructions. We **can't** park here. It's a no-parking zone. She **could** swim when she was three years old. They **couldn't** come to the concert last night.  6.13
- 2 **Can** you give me a hand?
Could I borrow your car?
- 3 I've **been able to** drive since I was 17.
The technician **will be able to** fix it.
I'd love to **be able to** ski.
I like **being able to** try clothes on, so I never buy things online.
- 4 Unfortunately, we **are not able to** supply the missing parts.
I'm very sorry that I **wasn't able to** attend the interview on Friday.
- 5 I **couldn't** find the book I wanted in the shops, but I **was able to** buy it online.
The mark on the carpet was really bad, but in the end I **was able to** get it out.

- 1 We use *can* to talk about ability, possibility, and permission. *can* is a modal verb, and it only has a present form (which can be used to talk about the future) and a past / conditional form (*could*).
- 2 We often use *Can you / I...?* or *Could you / I...?* to make requests or ask for permission. *Could...?* is more polite.
- 3 For all other tenses and forms, we use *be able to* + infinitive.
- 4 We sometimes use *be able to* in the present and past if we want to be more formal.
- 5 If we want to talk about ability on **one specific occasion** in the past, we can use *couldn't* but not *could*. Instead, we use *was / were able to*.
 - We can also use *managed to* instead of *was / were able to*, e.g. *I managed to buy it online*.

deduction

It **can't** be broken! I only bought it last week. They **can't** be back yet. They said they were coming home on Sunday.  6.14

- We use *can't* to say we are sure that something is impossible / not true.
- In this sense, the opposite of *can't* is *must*. Compare:
She can't be at work yet. It's only 7.30 a.m. (= I'm sure it's not true.)
She must be at work now. It's 9.30 a.m. (= I'm sure it's true.)

Let's play...

Complete the sentences with the correct form of *can, could, or be able to*.

I got a puncture, but I *was able to* change the wheel myself.

- 1 This screw is much too short – it be the right one.
- 2 I prefer real clothes shops to shopping online. I hate not try things on.
- 3 If we afford it, we'd eat out every week.
- 4 you see if they have these jeans in my size?
- 5 If it doesn't fit you, you should change it.
- 6 They find the book anywhere in the UK, so they ordered it from a US website.
- 7 I've never pronounce her name correctly.
- 8 Fifty pounds for two pairs of socks? They cost that much!
- 9 I spent ages looking for the right paint, and in the end I find the perfect colour.
- 10 She's got a beautiful voice. I'd love sing like that.



a Are the **highlighted** forms right (✓) or wrong (X)?
Correct the wrong ones.

I'm afraid it's broken and I **won't can** mend it. X
I won't be able to

- 1 He **can to sew** really well – he makes all his own clothes.
- 2 The office is closed now, but **you will can** phone them on Monday.
- 3 He loves music – **he could** play the violin when he was four!
- 4 **You couldn't be** serious! The ball was definitely out.
- 5 I love this shopping centre. **It's great to be able to buy** everything in one place.
- 6 Ask the shop assistant – **she might can** help you.
- 7 I tried to phone the bank, but **I wasn't able to speak** to the manager.
- 8 **Will I be able use** my UK credit card when I'm in the USA?
- 9 I bought a new bike yesterday – **I could get** 10% off by paying cash.
- 10 This camera's really cheap – **it can't be** very good.

b Complete the sentences with the correct form of *can, could, or be able to*.

I got a puncture, but I *was able to* change the wheel myself.

- 1 This screw is much too short – it be the right one.
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