



Mi Universidad

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Verbo can

WHEN AND HOW IS THE MODAL VERB CAN USED?



The verb can is part of the modal verbs and means 'power'. It is used to express **ability** and is used in the same way with all the subjects of the sentence (I, you, he, she, it, we and they).



When do we use the verb can?

"Can" is a modal verb and, like might and other modal verbs, it has different functions.



What is the verb can in English?

Very easy, the verb 'can' is a modal verb, and we can find it before a main verb that will always be in the infinitive.

MODAL VERB CAN IN AFFIRMATIVE

Affirmative sentences: **Sujeto + can + verbo (infinitivo)**. For example: I can come back later.



Subject + Can / Could + Not + Main verb + Complement

I can't play the guitar.

(No puedo tocar la guitarra.)

The structure is always the same, even with **he, she** and **it**: **sujeto + can + infinitivo sin to**.

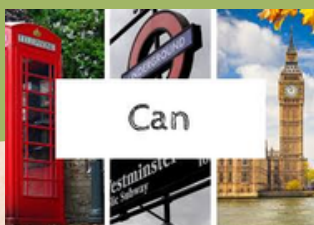
Example:

- Sé leer. **I can read.**
- (Ella) sabe tocar el piano. **She can play the piano.**

Example

Sé tocar el violín.

I can play the violin.



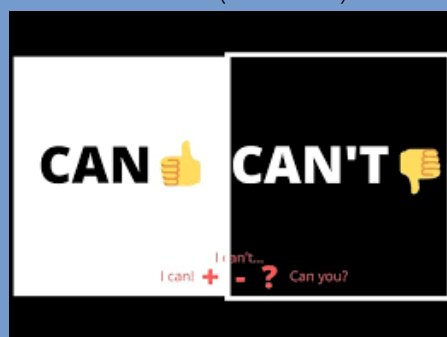
MODAL VERB CAN EN NEGATIVO

To form negative sentences, only the word "not" is added to this verb (cannot). Its shortened or contraction form is can't.

Modal verb can in negative

Cannot para expresar habilidad

- **I cannot play** the guitar. ('No sé tocar la guitarra').



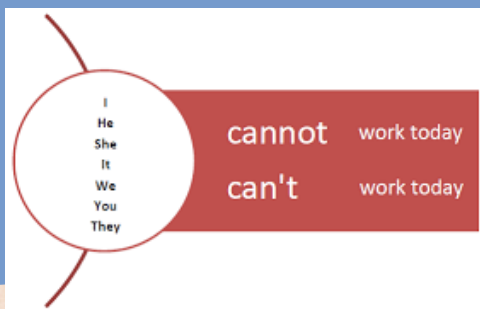
In the negative form the contraction **can't** is usually used, although there are also **cannot** and **can not**:

- **No sé conducir. I can't drive.**
- (Él) **No sabe cantar. He can't sing.**

Example

No sé cocinar.

I can't cook.



MODAL VERB CAN IN INTERROGATIVE

Can para pedir permiso

- **Can I go to the toilet?** ('¿Puedo ir al baño?')

Can / Could + Subject + Main verb + Complement

Can I ask you a question?

(¿Puedo hacerte una pregunta?)

CAN: TALKING ABOUT ABILITIES		
I	can	dance.
		sing.
		swim.
She	can't	drive.
		cook.

And to ask questions you don't use do, but rather you put **can** before the subject:

- **¿Sabes jugar al baloncesto? Can you play basketball?**
- **¿Sabe (ella) motivar a la gente? Can she motivate people?**

Example

¿Sabes hablar inglés?

Can you speak English?

Common mistake

Never, ever, say the infinitive with **to** after **can**. Don't say things like I can to say. Fatal! The correct thing will always be **I can say**.

-GLOSSARY-

BASEBALL-BÉISBOL



BASKETBALL-BALONCESTO



BOXING-BOXEO



GOLF-GOLF



RUNNING-CORRER



SOCCER-FÚTBOL



SWIMMING-NATACIÓN



VOLLEYBALL-VÓLEIBOL



TAEKWONDO-TAEKWONDO



SKATING-PATINAJE



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