

Look at the picture and compare **CAN** and **COULD**



He **can** play the piano.



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

I/we/you/they he/she/it	<b>can</b> <b>cannot (can't)</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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**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 Gerry, please? or ... **could I** speak ... ?

### Exercise 1

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ watch the movie last night. My TV was broken.

- could
- can't
- couldn't

2. I \_\_\_\_\_ open the door last night, the key was stuck in it!

- couldn't
- could

can

3. \_\_\_\_\_ you hear that storm yesterday?

can

can't

could

4. I enjoyed my trip to Paris because I \_\_\_\_\_ speak a little French.

could

couldn't

can

5. \_\_\_\_\_ you speak Russian when you went to the university in Moscow or did you learn later?

can

could

couldn't

6. \_\_\_\_\_ I borrow your phone for two seconds? Thanks.

could

couldn't

can't

7. Both my sisters \_\_\_\_\_ dance ballet really well. I think they'll be famous!

could

can

couldn't

8. I see that he's shouting something, but I \_\_\_\_\_ hear what he's saying at all.

couldn't

could

can't

## Exercise 2

1. \_\_\_\_\_ he understand what you were talking about?

Could

Cans

Coulded

2. My sister \_\_\_\_\_ play tennis now.

can to

can

will can

3. I \_\_\_\_\_ walk when I was less than a year old.

can

could

have can

4. (Polite) \_\_\_\_\_ you tell me what time it is, please?

Could

Can

Will

5. My grandfather \_\_\_\_\_ walk without any help last night.

can

could

was able to

6. I would like to \_\_\_\_\_ play the piano.

can

could

be able to

7. How long have you \_\_\_\_\_ drive?

can

coulded

been able to

8. I'll \_\_\_\_\_ help you later.

can

could

be able to

9. Can you help me? I \_\_\_\_\_ never understand this.

can

cannot

am able to

10. Will people \_\_\_\_\_ live forever one day?

could be

be able to

could be able to

### Exercise 3

1. Which sentence is correct?

I can't to see you today.

My parents can come to the party.

We can visiting you at the weekend.

2. Which question is correct?

Can you play the violin?

You can play the violin?

Play you the violin?

3. Which sentence is NOT correct?

David can't come to work today.

I can't to fix your car, I'm afraid.

We can't see the television.

4. Which question is correct?

Can you help me please?

You can please help me?

Can you to help me please?

5. Which question is NOT correct?

Where I can put this box?

Which sports can you play?

What time can you come to the office?

6. Which is the correct answer?

Can your brother speak German?

No, he can't.

No, he don't can.

Yes, he cans.

7. What is the best reply?

Could I borrow your pen?

Yes, sure.

Yes, you could.

Yes, I can.

8. Which word completes the question?

\_\_\_\_\_ you understand Spanish people when you were in Spain?

Could

Can

Do

9. Which word CANNOT go in the space?

\_\_\_\_\_ you drive me to the station please?

Can

Do    Could

10. Which words complete the sentence?

I \_\_\_\_\_ dance really well when I was young, but I \_\_\_\_\_ now.

couldn't / can't

could / can't

can't / can