MODAL VERBS OF ABILITY

CEFR Level A1 — Beginners

English Language Worksheets | 4 Worksheets + Answer Key

Worksheet 1: can and can't

We use 'can' to say what we are able to do.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — **Look and learn**

'Can' is a modal verb. It never changes, and the next verb has no 'to'. Study the table.

Form	Example
+ I can swim.	She can swim. They can swim. (never 'cans')
– I can't swim.	cannot = can't
? Can you swim?	Yes, I can. / No, I can't.
No 'to'	I can swim. (NOT: I can to swim)
No '-s'	He can swim. (NOT: He cans swim)

*Remember! After **can** we use the simple verb: **can swim**, **can play**, **can read**.*

PART B — **Circle the correct sentence**

Circle (a) or (b). Only one is correct.

1. (a) She cans play the piano. (b) She can play the piano.
2. (a) I can to swim. (b) I can swim.
3. (a) Can you help me? (b) Do you can help me?
4. (a) He can't drives a car. (b) He can't drive a car.
5. (a) They can speak English. (b) They can speaks English.
6. (a) Do she can cook? (b) Can she cook?

PART C — **Write can or can't**

Look at the picture in your head! Write 'can' or 'can't'.

1. A fish _____ swim.
2. A fish _____ walk.
3. A bird _____ fly.

4	A baby _____ drive a car.
5	A cat _____ climb a tree.
6	An elephant _____ jump.

Score: _____ / 12

Worksheet 2: Questions and Short Answers

Can you ...? Yes, I can. / No, I can't.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — Make questions

Write the question. Put ‘can’ first.

1. you / ride a bike
   → _____ ?
2. she / speak French
   → _____ ?
3. your brother / cook
   → _____ ?
4. they / play tennis
   → _____ ?

PART B — Short answers

Answer the questions about you. Write a short answer.

1. Can you swim? → _____
2. Can you drive a car? → _____
3. Can you play the guitar? → _____
4. Can you speak three languages? → _____

PART C — Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has ONE mistake. Write the correct sentence.

1. “She can sings very well.”
   Correction: _____
2. “Can you to come with me?”
   Correction: _____
3. “He cans run fast.”
   Correction: _____
4. “I no can play chess.”
   Correction: _____

Score: _____ / 12

Worksheet 3: could — ability in the past

'Could' is the past of 'can'.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — **Look and learn**

Now (present)	Before (past)
I can swim.	I could swim when I was five.
She can't drive.	She couldn't drive last year.
Can you read?	Could you read at four?
He can run fast.	He could run fast at school.

could *= was/were able to.* ***couldn't*** *= could not.*

PART B — **can or could?**

Circle the correct word.

1. When I was six, I (can / could) not read.
2. Today I (can / could) read very well.
3. My grandmother (can / could) dance when she was young.
4. Look! I (can / could) touch my toes.
5. Last year he (can / could) not swim, but now he can.
6. (Can / Could) you help me now, please?

PART C — **Write about the past**

Write a sentence with ‘could’ or ‘couldn’t’.

1. When I was three, I _____ .
2. When I was five, I _____ .
3. Last year, I _____ .

Score: _____ / 9

Worksheet 4: Writing Practice

Write about what you can and can't do.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — **Complete the table**

Write ✓ (I can) or ✗ (I can't). Then write a sentence.

Activity	✓ / ✗	Sentence
swim		
ride a bike		
cook pasta		
play a musical instrument		

PART B — **About me and my family**

Write four sentences. Use **can** twice, **can't** once and **could** once.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Score: _____ / 8

ANSWER KEY & TEACHER NOTES

For teacher use only — A1 Level Worksheets

Modal Verbs of Ability | English Language Worksheets

Worksheet 1 – can and can't

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
B	Correct sentence 1–6	**1 b, 2 b, 3 a, 4 b, 5 a, 6 b**
C	can / can't 1–6	**1 can, 2 can't, 3 can, 4 can't, 5 can, 6 can't**

Worksheet 2 – Questions & Mistakes

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
A	Questions 1–4	**1 Can you ride a bike? 2 Can she speak French? 3 Can your brother cook? 4 Can they play tennis?**
B	Short answers 1–4	**Accept 'Yes, I can.' or 'No, I can't.' (1 mark each)**
C1	can sings	**She can sing very well. (no -s after 'can')**
C2	can you to come	**Can you come with me? (no 'to' after 'can')**
C3	He cans run	**He can run fast. ('can' never takes -s)**
C4	I no can play	**I can't play chess. (use 'can't', not 'no can')**

Worksheet 3 – could

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
B	can / could 1–6	**1 could, 2 can, 3 could, 4 can, 5 could, 6 Can**
C	Write about the past 1–3	**Accept any correct sentence with could/couldn't + base verb (e.g. 'When I was three, I couldn't read.'). 1 mark each.**

Worksheet 4 – Writing (guidance)

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
A	The table	**1 mark per correct sentence: 'I can swim.' / 'I can't ride a bike.' etc. Verb must have no 'to' and no '-s'.**
B	About me and my family	**Award 1 mark per correct sentence (max 4): two with 'can', one with 'can't', one with 'could'.**