

What is Modal Can (Ability)?

Worksheet

Can is a modal verb used to express ability or possibility — 'I can swim' means you have the ability to swim. The negative form is 'cannot' or 'can't', and the question form inverts the subject: 'Can you help?'

Questions

1. Fill: I ___ speak three languages.
A) can
B) cans
C) can to
D) am can
2. Choose the correct question form.
A) You can swim?
B) Can you swim?
C) Do you can swim?
D) Can you to swim?
3. What is the negative form?
A) I no can run
B) I not can run
C) I can't run
D) I can no run
4. Which sentence uses can correctly?
A) She can goes home.
B) She can going home.
C) She can go home.
D) She can to go home.
5. Say what abilities you have.
6. Ask someone about their abilities.
7. Explain what you cannot do.
8. Define: What does modal can mean?
9. Define: How do you form a question with can?
10. Define: What is the negative of can?

Answer Key

1. A) can — Modal can is always singular and takes the base verb: 'can speak'.
2. B) Can you swim? — Questions with can invert: 'Can you swim?'
3. C) I can't run — Negative: 'I can't run' or 'I cannot run'.
4. C) She can go home. — Can is followed by the base verb: 'can go', not 'can goes' or 'can going'.
5. I can speak English. I can play the guitar. I can cook.
6. Can you swim? Can you drive? Can you speak French?
7. I can't speak Arabic. I cannot fly. I can't solve this problem.
8. Can expresses ability or possibility: 'I can run' = I have the ability to run.
9. Invert can and subject: 'Can you help?' 'Can he cook?'
10. Cannot (written as one word) or can't (contraction) — both mean the same.

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