

What is the Modal Verb Can?

Worksheet

Can expresses ability, possibility, or permission in the present. 'Can' becomes 'could' in the past or conditional.

Questions

1. Which use of 'can' is correct? 'She can run fast.'
A) Expressing ability
B) Asking permission
C) Stating obligation
D) Giving advice
2. What is the negative of 'can'?
A) can not
B) cannot
C) can't
D) All are correct
3. Past form of 'can': 'He ___ speak three languages as a child.'
A) can
B) could
C) is can
D) can be
4. 'Can you help me?' is an example of...
A) Ability
B) Permission
C) Possibility
D) Obligation
5. Can you speak French?
6. This fruit can last two weeks if kept cold.
7. Can I use your pen?
8. Define: What does 'can' express?
9. Define: Can/cannot or can't — which is correct?
10. Define: What is the past of 'can'?

Answer Key

1. A) Expressing ability — 'Can' here shows her ability to run fast.
2. D) All are correct — All three forms are accepted; 'cannot' is formal, 'can't' is informal.
3. B) could — Use 'could' for past ability.
4. B) Permission — Asking if someone will permit/is able to help is requesting permission.
5. Here, 'can' asks about ability. Answer: 'Yes, I can speak French' or 'No, I cannot.'
6. 'Can' expresses possibility or capability in specific conditions.
7. Here, 'can' politely requests permission. Answer: 'Yes, you can.'
8. Ability, possibility, or permission.
9. Both. 'Cannot' is formal, 'can't' is informal.
10. 'Could' — used for past ability or conditional.

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