

Escuela Preparatoria Número Uno Talking about abilities Lic. Katya G. Ortega Mendoza Enero – Junio 2021

Talking about abilities

Abstract:

Talking about abilities is one of the communicative skills that are basic while learning to communicate in English. It could be considered as part of the basic personal information someone can provide.

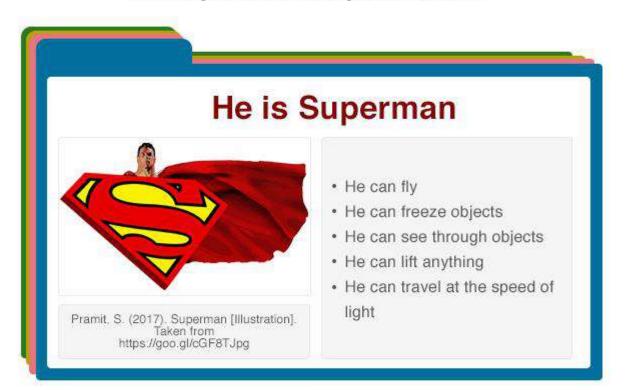
Can is the first modal verb that students have contact with, it is the starting point to learn some others.

Key words: Abilities, permission, can, cannot



Check the next examples

What do you think of when you see this card?



He has super human abilities.





Check the next examples









Adapted from Escolaespai (2014). Teacher [photo]. Taken from https://goo.gl/LvwuH3

2021



Adapted from Contreras, L. (2012). *Police* [photo]. Taken from https://goo.gl/WfWf9x



The last examples have something in common ...

Can / Can't

Abilities & Permission







What is can? Can is a modal verb on its own and does not have a meaning. It has to go with main verbs or action verbs. Look at these examples:

- I can speak English
- He can't ride a bike



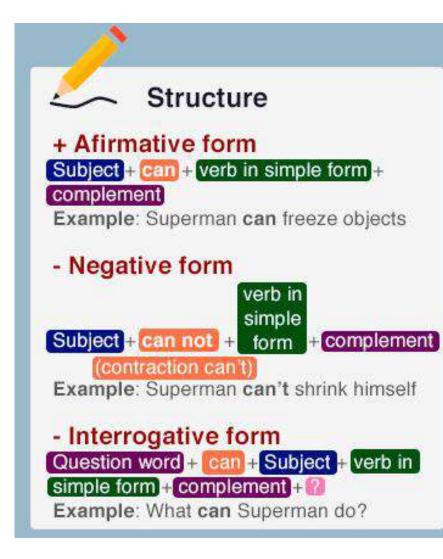


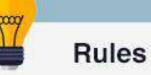




- It shows in PRESENT that someone has the <u>ability</u> to do something.
 - Peter's ten years old. He <u>CAN</u> read and write.
- It's used to make a <u>request</u>.
 - **<u>CAN</u>** you help me with my homework, please?
- We use it to ask *permission* in informal situations.
 - Mom, <u>CAN</u> I go out with my friends?







1. Verb in simple form

It always goes with a verb in simple form, that is, you do not conjugate it.

2. Do not add 's' You do not add -s to CAN Incorrect: He cans run

3. Do not add 'ing' You do not add –ING to CAN Incorrect: He is canning





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- Ocañas, L. (2021). Modal verb CAN (ability and permission) Affirmative, interrogative and negative forms. Retrieved 25 March 2021, from https://avi.cuaed.unam.mx/repositorio/moodle/pluginfile.php/2820/mod_resource/ content/11/contenido/index.html

