

Pre-Intermediate 1
Unit 1: Grammar
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Can/Can't

Point:

We use the simple form of the verb after *can* or *can't*. In other words, we can't add -ing or -(e)s to the verb which follows them.

We use *can* or *can't* for the following purposes:

- **Ability = what you can do**
I can speak French.
They can't lift the table.
- **Permission = what you are allowed to do (Both Giving & Getting Permission)**
Can I leave the class?
Yes, you can.
- **Request = what you ask other people to do for you**
Can I have more ice cream?
Can I borrow your pen?
- **Offers = Suggestions & Recommendations**
Can I help you?
Can I take a taxi for you?
- **Probability = what is possible to happen**
The final exam can be very hard.
It can rain tonight.

Pronunciation Note

Weak Pronunciation => /kən/

/ə/ = schwa = like a very soft /e/

Strong Pronunciation => /kæn/

/æ/

Point:

We use the **weak pronunciation** of "can" in **positive statements** and **questions**.

statement = a sentence which gives you some information

Examples:

He can run.

Can he run?

Point:

In **negative statements** and in **short answers**, we use the **strong pronunciation** of "can".

Examples:

He can't run.

Yes, he can.

Source:

[Pre-Intermediate 1 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)