



Basic English

3



Unit 3 Lesson 1 - Can you speak multiple languages?



Introduce today's sentences.



Grammar Focus

- - Can + subject pronoun + verb ...?
- - Yes, + subject pronoun + can.
- No, + subject pronoun + can't.

Key Expressions

- - Can you speak multiple languages?
- - No, I can't. I am just a bilingual.



Listen to the teacher and repeat.



translator



foreign language teacher



bilingual



multilingual



Listen to the audio and repeat.

Jerrica: She looks chic in her autumn coat.

Aya: Who is she? What does she do?

Jerrica: Her name is Maria, a foreign language professor. I've heard that she also works as a part-time translator for a certain company.

Aya: Wow! She is excellent!

Jerrica: Can you speak multiple languages?

Aya: No, I can't. I'm just a bilingual.

I want to be a multilingual like her. How about you?

Jerrica: Not really. I want to be a hairdresser, like my neighbor – Tess.

Aya: Cool! Can she help me style my hair?

Jerrica: Yes, she can. She is very good at it.

Aya: Great! I'll visit your neighbor for a new hairstyle on holiday.





Learn the grammar structures.

'Can'

Can is an auxiliary verb, a modal auxiliary verb.
We use "can" to talk ability and make requests.

GENERAL ABILITY

to talk about what someone is able to do

Subject + Auxiliary Verb Can + Main Verb ...

A translator can change words from one or more languages to another language.

A hairdresser can cut and style people's hair.

REQUEST

to ask someone to do something for you

Auxiliary Verb Can + Subject + Main Verb...?

Can she help me style my hair?

Can you give me a lift to school?

Notes

Modal verbs are a type of auxiliary verbs that are not subject to **inflection**, which means that you do not add any suffixes to the modal verb.

Learn the grammar structures.

Modal Can: Yes/ No Questions

As 'can' is a modal verb, even in the third person singular no 's' is added.

Pronoun	Question	Positive Short Answer	Negative Short Answer
I / You	Can you run in a marathon?	Yes, I can.	No, I can't.
He / She / It	Can she dance hip-hop?	Yes, she can.	No, she can't.
We / You / They	Can they read fast?	Yes, they can.	No, they can't.



Could

We use the modal "could" to express an ability in the past.

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-
-
- **Subject + could/ couldn't + Main Verb + time expression ...**

I could read the alphabet before I started school.

She couldn't cook until she went to the university.

Talk about your abilities using "can" and "could".



Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

1. Rob can/ can't speak English really well. He sounds like a native speaker.
2. When I was a girl, I could/ couldn't swim 10 kilometers.
3. Tim's a big rugby fan but he can/ can't play anymore. He's too old.
4. Are you sure you put sugar in my tea? I honestly could/ couldn't taste it.
5. The children can/ can't find that the teacher was very angry.
6. The police searched the whole village for the criminal, but they could/ couldn't see.
7. My great-grandfather was a very clever man but he can/ can't read or write.
8. Did you remember to turn off the cooker? I could/ couldn't smell something burning.

Exercise I. Make general questions using “can” and “could”. Use the pictures as your hints.



before

1. _____ ?



now

2. _____ ?



at present

3. _____ ?



then

4. _____ ?

Exercise II. Have an interview with your teacher. Ask your teacher what she can and could do.



Can you speak another language?

.....

Yes, I can. / No, I can't.

.....





Situation: You and your sister are talking about your new neighbor. Ask your sister what your new neighbor does for a living, what he/she can do, etc. Also, ask your sister what she wants to be and what this job can do.

Use the following expressions:

--- What + does + subject + do?

--- Can + subject pronoun + verb + noun?



Read what we learned today.



Word Focus

- translator foreign language teacher
- bilingual multilingual

Grammar Focus

- ■ - Can + subject pronoun + verb...?
- ■ - Yes, + subject pronoun + can.
- ■ No, + subject pronoun + can't.