

## Use of Can / Can't

**Can:** have the ability to do it. For example: 'I **can** swim'

**Can't:** don't have ability to do it. For example: 'I **can't** drive'

**Can:** allowed / permission to do it. E.g., 'I **can** go to the toilet at break-time'

**Can't:** not allowed / no permission to do it. E.g., 'I **can't** use my phone in class'

**Question** - asking permission: 'Can I .....?'

**Question** – asking for help / assistance / permission: 'Can you .....?'

**Read the sentences below. Write in can or can't.**

1. Elephants \_\_\_\_\_ fly.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I go to the bathroom please.
3. I am 15 years old. I \_\_\_\_\_ legally drive.
4. He is 21 years old. He \_\_\_\_\_ buy alcohol.
5. Last year I went to swimming lessons so now I \_\_\_\_\_ swim.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ you open the window please?
7. We \_\_\_\_\_ drink tea or coffee at break-time.
8. The children \_\_\_\_\_ go outside without permission.
9. They are Russian. They \_\_\_\_\_ speak Chinese.
10. In Ireland you \_\_\_\_\_ buy cigarettes until you are 18.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ we go to the cinema this weekend?
12. Most dogs \_\_\_\_\_ swim.
13. I'm a musician. I \_\_\_\_\_ play many instruments.

## 10 years ago, and present day

Question	10 years ago	Present Day
	Yes, I could No, I couldn't	Yes, I can No, I can't
Could you walk for 20 km?		
Could you drive a car?		
Could you swim?		
Could you speak English?		
Could you cook yourself?		
Could you use the internet?		
Could you dance?		
Could you play a sport?		
Could you run for 30 minutes?		
Could you stay awake for 24 hours?		
Could you cycle a bicycle?		
Could you type fast?		

**Write down three things you can do since you have come to Ireland:**

**I can** \_\_\_\_\_

**I can** \_\_\_\_\_

**I can** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Asking politely**

**In English it is fine to ask for something using 'can'**

**For example: Can I get a glass of water please?**

**We can also use 'could' to be very polite.**

**For example: Could I have some sugar please?**

**Make these questions using 'could'**

please? / I / a glass / Could / have / of water

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have / a pizza / I / please? Could

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Could / a one-way / please? / get / ticket / I

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answer / you / Could / please? / the phone

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lend / Could / me / you / some money?

---

the door? / open / you / Could

---

help / Could / please? / me / you

---

turn on / you / please? / the light / Could

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## Rules and Regulations: Ireland

Use can or can't to express these rules and regulations in Ireland.

### In Ireland...

You \_\_\_\_\_ smoke in public buildings.

You \_\_\_\_\_ buy alcohol at the age of 18.

You \_\_\_\_\_ enter National Museums for free.

You \_\_\_\_\_ learn to drive at the age of 17.

You \_\_\_\_\_ buy cigarettes at the age of 15.

You \_\_\_\_\_ stay at home alone at the age of 18.

You \_\_\_\_\_ leave school at the age of 16.

You \_\_\_\_\_ drive on the right-hand side of the road.

You \_\_\_\_\_ get legally married at the age of 16.

You \_\_\_\_\_ have a job at the age of 16.

You \_\_\_\_\_ go to primary school at the age of 3.

You \_\_\_\_\_ eat meat on Friday.

Both parents \_\_\_\_\_ work if they are married.

You \_\_\_\_\_ throw rubbish on the street.

You \_\_\_\_\_ steal from a shop.

## Can / Can't

**Can: ability:** I can swim'

**Can't: don't have ability:** 'I can't drive'

**Can: allowed to do it:** 'I can go to the toilet at break-time'

**Can't: not allowed to do it:** 'I can't use my phone in class'

**Question** for asking permission: 'Can I .....?'

**Read the sentences below. Write in can or can't.**

1. Elephants \_\_\_\_\_ fly.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I go to the bathroom?
3. I am 15 years old. I \_\_\_\_\_ legally drive.
4. He is 21 years old. He \_\_\_\_\_ buy alcohol.
5. Last year I went to swimming lessons so now I \_\_\_\_\_ swim.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ you open the window please?
7. We \_\_\_\_\_ drink tea or coffee at break.
8. We \_\_\_\_\_ go outside without permission.
9. They are Russian. They \_\_\_\_\_ speak Chinese.
10. In Ireland you \_\_\_\_\_ buy cigarettes until you are 18.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ we go to the cinema?
12. Most dogs \_\_\_\_\_ swim.
13. I'm a musician. I \_\_\_\_\_ play many instruments.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ you open the door please?

## Asking for help / Asking for something / Request

### Can I have ... ?

please? / I / a glass / Can / have / of water

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have / a pizza / I / please? Can

---

Can / please? / get / a ticket / I

---

call / you / Can / please? / my mobile

---

give / Can / me / you / some money?

---

the door? / open / you / Can

---

help / Can / please? / me / you

---

turn on / you / please? / the light / Can

---

you / Can / meet / tomorrow? / me

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## Asking for help / Asking for something

**Can I .....please?**

please? / I / some / Can / have / water

---

have / a pizza / I / please? Can

---

Can / please? / get / a ticket / I

---

I / have / Can / please? / some / sugar

---

get / Can / I / some / money?

---

the window? / open / I / Can

---

help / Can / please? / me / you

---

go / now? / I / Can

---

have / Can / I / a drink / please?

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**Arrange the words to make correct sentences using 'can' and 'can't'**

can / very / I / well / swim

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chicken / rice / I / cook / can / and

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can't / for a long / I / time / run

---

speak / four / I / languages / can

---

can / fluently / speak / I / French

---

can / Nobody / fly

---

can / cycle / fast / really / He

---

Sarah / run / thirty / for / can / minutes

---

really / play / can / Thomas / basketball / well

---

They / sing / beautifully / can

---

can't / Children / buy / in Ireland / alcohol

---

can't / smoke / You / buildings / public / in

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