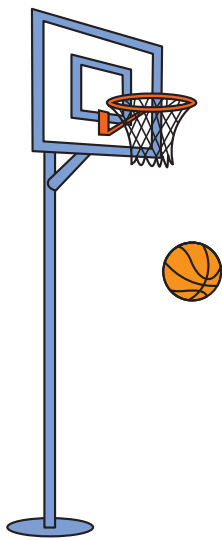




Use

- We use **can** to talk about things we are able to do.
- We use **can't** to talk about things we aren't able to do.



- 'Can they sing well?
- 'Yes, they **can**.'

He **can't** play basketball.



Form

- We form sentences with **can** and **can't** like this:

Subject + **can / can't** + verb.

Positive (+)			
Subject	can	verb	
I			
You			
He / she / it	can	speak	English.
We			
They			

Negative (-)			
Subject	can't	verb	
I			
You			
He / she / it	can't	speak	English.
We			
They			

Tip

We don't use **to** with the verb after **can** or **can't**:
You **can play** the guitar well. (NOT ~~You can to play the guitar well.~~)

We don't add **-s** to **can** or **can't** with **he / she / it**:
He **can** speak German. (NOT ~~He cans speak German.~~)

We don't use **do / does** with **can** or **can't**:
I **can't** swim. (NOT ~~I don't can swim.~~)

Tip

Can't is the short form of **cannot**. We usually use the short form, but we sometimes use the full form in writing.



- To make **questions with can**, we change the order of the subject and *can*:

Can + subject + verb?

Questions			
<i>Can</i>	subject	verb	
Can	I you he / she / it we they	speak	English?

Tip

We don't use *do / does* when we make questions with *can*.

Can you ride a bike? (NOT ~~Do you can ride a bike?~~)

Short answers					
Positive (+)			Negative (-)		
Yes,	I you he / she / it we they	can.	No,	I you he / she / it we they	can't.

Tip

We don't repeat the other verb in short answers with *can / can't*.

'Can you cook?'

'Yes, **I can.**' (NOT ~~Yes, I can cook. / Yes, I cook.~~)