RULE SHEET

can and can't



Use **can** for abilities: I **can** swim. The negative is **can't** (cannot): I **can't** ski. **can** is the same for all persons: he **can**, she **can** – no -s! After can, use the verb without to: She can **sing**.

Form

Person	Positive	Negative	Question	Short answers
I / you / we / they	I **can** swim.	I **can't** swim.	**Can** you swim?	Yes, I **can**. · No, I **can't**.
he / she / it	She **can** swim.	She **can't** swim.	**Can** she swim?	Yes, she **can**. · No, she **can't**.

Things you can do

Sport	Music and art	Other things
swim · ski · skate	sing · dance	cook · draw
ride a bike · ride a horse	play the piano · play the guitar	speak French · speak German
play football · play tennis	play the drums · play the violin	juggle · climb trees

More examples

- Ostriches **can't** fly, but they **can** run very fast.
- **Can** I open the window? – Yes, you **can**. (asking for permission)

> **Watch out!** Wrong: he can**s** · she can swim**s** · I can **to** swim · **Are** you can swim? Short answers with can: Can Tom cook? – No, he **can't**. (not: No, he isn't.)

PRACTICE 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____



I can – I can't

1 Tick can or can't.

1. Frogs _____ jump. ○ can ○ can't
2. A tree _____ walk. ○ can ○ can't
3. A snail _____ run fast. ○ can ○ can't
4. Bees _____ fly. ○ can ○ can't
5. Dolphins _____ swim. ○ can ○ can't
6. A fish _____ ride a bike. ○ can ○ can't
7. Owls _____ see at night. ○ can ○ can't
8. A table _____ sing. ○ can ○ can't

2 Write can or can't + the verb.

Example: (yes: swim) Mia _____. → *can swim*

1. (no: ski) Ben _____.
2. (yes: dance) My sisters _____.
3. (no: cook) I _____.
4. (yes: play the drums) Omar _____.
5. (no: whistle) Lily _____.
6. (yes: climb trees) We _____.
7. (no: skate) My dad _____.
8. (yes: speak French) Mrs Green _____.