

Modal Auxiliary Verbs | Can

Can is a modal auxiliary verb. This means that it is used to modify the mood of a verb. *Can* is used to express ability, willingness, permission, or possibility. The negative of *can* is *cannot* or the contraction *can't*.

For a three-letter word
I have a lot going on!



Sample Sentence

I can ride a bike.
 Can you please hand me that book?
 Can I borrow your backpack?
 Lightening can strike in the same place twice.

In this sentence *can* expresses:

ability
 willingness
 permission
 possibility

Directions: Read each sentence below. Is *can* used to express ability, willingness, permission or possibility? Write the correct answer on the line beside each sentence.

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| | 1. | I cannot stand the way that curtain looks. |
| | 2. | Can you help me with my homework? |
| | 3. | Ants can lift up to 100 times their own body weight. |
| | 4. | I can eat six hot dogs when I am really hungry. |
| | 5. | Looking straight into the sun can hurt your eyes. |
| | 6. | I can help you clean up your room if you would like. |
| | 7. | A house divided against itself cannot stand. |
| | 8. | Can I have a piece of cake? |
| | 9. | I can take the bus, but I would rather you give me a ride. |
| | 10, | I can speak Spanish. |