

Can & Could

**CAN
COULD** + **Verb in the
INFINITIVE
Form**

Can – PRESENT FORM

AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE	INTERROGATIVE
I can play	I can't play	Can I play?
You can play	You can't play	Can you play?
He, she, it can play	He, she, it can't play	Can he, she, it play?
We, you, they can play	We, you, they can't play	Can we, you, they play?

Could – PAST FORM

AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE	INTERROGATIVE
I could play	I couldn't play	Could I play?
You could play	You couldn't play	Could you play?
He, she, it could play	He, she, it couldn't play	Could he, she, it play?
We, you, they could play	We, you, they couldn't play	Could we, you, they play?

We use CAN and COULD to talk about:

ABILITY	PRESENT Can	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can sing and dance. <i>Se cantar y bailar.</i>
	PAST Could	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I could sing when I was 5 years-old. <i>Sabía cantar cuando tenía 5 años.</i>
PERMISSION	PRESENT Can	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can I go to the toilet? Yes, you can. <i>¿Puedo ir al servicio? Si.</i>
	PAST Could	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I could go to the party because I passed my exam. <i>Pude ir a la fiesta porque aprobé mi examen.</i>
POSSIBILITY	PRESENT Can	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We can't smoke here. <i>No podemos fumar aquí.</i>
	PAST Could	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They could arrive on time. <i>Ellos pudieron llegar a tiempo.</i>
OFFERS, REQUESTS AND INSTRUCTIONS	Can and Could	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can I help you? <i>¿Puedo ayudarte?</i> Could you pass me the salt, please? (Present meaning) <i>¿Podría pasarme la sal, por favor?</i> When you finish, you can turn off the computer. <i>Cuando termines, puedes apagar el ordenador.</i>