

Lesson Plan: Can, Can't (ability)

Level: Beginner (A1)

Time: 45–60 minutes

Skills: Speaking, listening, reading, writing

1. Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Use can to talk about abilities
- Use can't to talk about lack of ability
- Ask and answer simple questions with Can you...?

2. Target Language

- Affirmative:

I can swim.

She can read English.

- Negative:

I can't drive.

He can't cook.

- Question:

Can you swim?

- Short answers:

Yes, I can. / No, I can't.

3. Materials

- Board / slides
- Flashcards or pictures (swim, read, write, run, sing, draw, ride a bike)
- Worksheet (optional)

4. Warm-Up (5–10 minutes)

Activity: Teacher Demonstration

1. Act out an ability (e.g., pretend to swim).
2. Say: "I can swim."
3. Write on the board:

I can swim.

4. Act out something you can't do (e.g., fly).
5. Say: "I can't fly."
6. Write:

I can't fly.

→ Use gestures and pictures to support understanding.

5. Presentation (10 minutes)

Step 1: Form

Write on the board:

- Subject + can + verb

I can read.

- Subject + can't + verb

I can't drive.

Highlight:

- No "to" after can ~~X~~ can to swim
- Verb does not change ~~X~~ can swims

Step 2: Meaning Check

Ask simple yes/no questions:

"Can I swim?" (gesture swimming)

"Can I fly?" (gesture flying)

Let students answer together: *Yes! / No!*

6. Controlled Practice (10–15 minutes)

Activity 1: Repeat & Point

- Show a picture.
- Say: "I can ____."
- Students repeat.

Example:

- Picture of a bike → "I can ride a bike."

Activity 2: Fill in the Blanks

Write on the board or worksheet:

1. I ____ read English.
2. I ____ fly.
3. She ____ swim.

Students choose can or can't.

7. Speaking Practice (15 minutes)

Activity 1: Yes/no game

Teacher asks:

"Can you swim?", "Can you draw?", "Can you sing?"

Students answer:

"Yes, I can." / "No, I can't."

Activity 2: Pair work

Students ask and answer in pairs:

Student A: Can you ____?

Student B: Yes, I can. / No, I can't.

(Provide a word list on the board.)

8. Free Practice (10 minutes)

Activity: Class Survey

Students ask 3 classmates:

"Can you ____?"

They report:

"Anna can swim.", "Tom can't cook."

9. Review & Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

- Ask concept questions:

"Do we say can to swim?" (No)

"Do we change the verb?" (No)

- Elicit examples from students:

"Tell me one thing you can do."

10. Optional Homework

- Write 3 things you can do and 2 things you can't do.
- Draw pictures and label them (for younger learners).