


A1 TEENS · VOCABULARY · LESSON 27

Sports I Play *What can you do?*

I can swim. I can't ski. Can you play tennis? In this lesson you'll learn the words for sports and how to talk about what you can and can't do.

 45 minutes CEFR A1 Sports

Name: _____ Date: _____

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WARM-UP

Think before you start**Before the lesson, ask yourself...**

1. What sports do you like to play or watch?

2. Can you swim? Can you ride a bike?

3. What is one sport you can't do (but want to learn)?

4. Do you play a sport at school? Which one?

"can" & "can't" step by step**Talking about ability: "can" and "can't"**

We use **can** for what we are able to do, and **can't** (cannot) for what we are not able to do. After **can**, use the **base verb** — no -s, no -ing!

CAN I **can** play football.

CAN'T He **can't** swim very well.

NOTE Use **can** for everyone — I, you, he, she, we, they. It never changes!

Asking and answering with "can"

YOU WANT TO...	YOU SAY...
Say what you CAN do	I can ride a bike.
Say what you CAN'T do	I can't play the guitar.
Ask a friend	Can you swim?
Answer YES (short)	Yes, I can.
Answer NO (short)	No, I can't.
Ask about another person	Can he play basketball?

Useful little words!

can

can't

Can you...?

Yes, I can

No, I can't

play

well

a little

play, go or do? Sports verbs

Different sports use different verbs. The most common at A1 is **play**.

PLAY play football, play tennis, play basketball (ball / team games)

GO go swimming, go running, go cycling (activities ending in -ing)

DO do karate, do gymnastics (other activities)

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KEY VOCABULARY

Sports words you'll need

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
football <i>noun</i>	a team game where you kick a ball into a goal	<i>I play football with my friends.</i>
basketball <i>noun</i>	a team game where you throw a ball into a net	<i>He is very good at basketball.</i>
tennis <i>noun</i>	a game for two people who hit a ball over a net	<i>Can you play tennis?</i>
swim <i>verb</i>	to move through water using your arms and legs	<i>I can swim very well.</i>
run <i>verb</i>	to move fast on your feet	<i>She can run very fast.</i>
ride <i>verb</i>	to sit on and control a bike or horse	<i>I can ride a bike.</i>
team <i>noun</i>	a group of people who play a sport together	<i>My team is the best!</i>
win <i>verb</i>	to be first or best in a game	<i>We always want to win.</i>
ball <i>noun</i>	a round object you use in many sports	<i>Throw the ball to me!</i>
fast <i>adj / adv</i>	moving quickly; not slow	<i>He is a fast runner.</i>

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READING

Sports day at Greenhill School

SCHOOL LIFE · ISSUE 27

The big race: *Everyone can do something!*

Four friends, four different sports talents

It's Sports Day! The sun is shining and all the students are excited. Today everyone shows what they **can** do.

Sara loves running. "I **can run** very **fast**," she says. "But I **can't swim** — water is scary for me!" She laughs.

Tom is in the football **team**. "I **can play** football and basketball," he says. "I love it when we **win**!"

What about Mia and Leo?

Mia smiles. "I **can** ride a bike and I **can** do gymnastics, but I **can't play** tennis. I always miss the **ball**!"

Leo is the quiet one. "I'm not fast and I **can't** jump high," he says. But then everyone is surprised — Leo **can swim** like a fish! He wins the swimming race. "Wow, Leo!" his friends shout. "You **can** swim really well!" Everyone is happy. On Sports Day, everyone is a winner.

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VOCABULARY CARDS

Review & remember

football

noun

A team game where you kick a ball into a goal.

"We play football every Saturday."

swim

verb

To move through water with your arms and legs.

"I can swim in the sea."

ride

verb

To sit on and control a bike or a horse.

"Can you ride a bike?"

team

noun

A group of people who play a sport together.

"There are 11 players in a football team."

win

verb

To be first or best in a game.

"I hope we win the match!"

fast

adj / adv

Moving quickly; not slow.

"She can run very fast."

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PRACTICE

Fill in the blanks

🏆 Complete each sentence about sports and ability. Write the missing word or words on the line. Watch "can" and "can't"!


- 1 I _____ swim very well. (*able to*)
- 2 He _____ ride a horse. (*not able to*)
- 3 _____ you play tennis? (*question*)
- 4 "Can you swim?" — "Yes, I _____ ." (*short answer*)
- 5 We _____ football on Saturdays. (*verb for football*)
- 6 I can _____ very fast. (*after 'can': base form*)
- 7 My football _____ always wins. (*group of players*)
- 8 She runs quickly. She is very _____. (*opposite of slow*)


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SPEAKING

Find someone who can...

Work with a partner or walk around the class. Ask "Can you...?" questions. Use short answers: **Yes, I can / No, I can't**. Find a person who can do each thing!

 Can you swim?

 Can you ride a bike?

 Can you play football or basketball?

 Can you run very fast?

 What is one sport you can't do?

EXAMPLE CONVERSATION

A: Can you swim?

B: Yes, I can! Can you swim too?

A: No, I can't. But I can ride a bike.

B: Can you play basketball?

A: Yes, I can. I'm in the school team!

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WRITING

Sports and me

Write about what you can and can't do (50–70 words)

Write about the sports you can and can't do. Use "I can..." and "I can't...". Remember to:

- use "I can..." at least twice
- use "I can't..." at least once
- name at least 3 different sports
- say which sport is your favourite and why

Check your understanding

Tick (✓) the correct answer for each question.

1. Complete: I ___ swim very well.

- A am can
- B can
- C cans
- D can to

2. What is the NEGATIVE of 'can'?

- A don't can
- B can not have
- C can't
- D no can

3. Choose the correct sentence:

- A She can plays tennis.
- B She can play tennis.
- C She cans play tennis.
- D She can to play tennis.

4. How do you ASK about ability?

- A You can swim?
- B Do you can swim?
- C Can you swim?
- D Are you can swim?

5. 'Can you ride a bike?' — Best short answer:

- A Yes, I do.
- B Yes, I can.
- C Yes, I am.
- D Yes, I ride.

6. Which verb do we use with football and tennis?

- A go
- B do
- C play
- D make

7. Which word means 'a group who play together'?

- A ball
- B team
- C fast
- D win

8. She runs quickly. She is very...

- A slow
- B fast
- C late
- D tall



Answer Key

Part 6 — Fill in the blanks

1. can 2. can't 3. Can 4. can
5. play 6. run 7. team 8. fast

Part 9 — Quiz

1. **B** — can (can + base verb, no 'am', no -s)
2. **C** — can't (can't = cannot)
3. **B** — She can play tennis (base form after 'can')
4. **C** — Can you swim? ('Can' at the start)
5. **B** — Yes, I can (short answers use 'can')
6. **C** — play (play football, play tennis)
7. **B** — team (a group who play together)
8. **B** — fast (quickly = fast)