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1 : to be able to (do something) I don't need any help. I can do it myself. I can't decide what to do. All we can do [=the only thing we can do] now is wait. : to know how to (do something) : to have the power or skill to (do something) A weight lifter can lift a very heavy weight. Only Congress can do that. : to be designed to (do something) a car that can hold five people [=a car that has enough room for five people] How fast can [=does, will] the car go? sometimes used without a following verb I visit her whenever I can. I don't know if I'll be able to fix the problem, but I'll do what I can. Please help us if you can. 2 used to describe what someone sees, feels, thinks, etc. Can you see him yet? Yes, I can see him clearly. Can [=do] you remember/understand how to do it? 3 a used to say that something is or is not possible Do you think he can still be alive? [=do you think it is possible that he is still alive?] I don't think he can still be alive. [=I think he must be dead] These problems can be dealt with more easily at the local level. You can't always get what you want in life. At this time of year many birds can be found on the island. [=there are many birds on the island at this time of year] If you don't tell me what the problem is, I can't help you. You can't be very smart [=you aren't very smart] if you believe that! He was supposed to be here an hour ago. Where can he (possibly) be? [=where is he?] [+I] more examples [-] hide examples [+I] Example sentences [-] Hide examples sometimes used in the emphatic phrase asas can be I want a cake as big as can be! [=I want the biggest cake possible] They seemed as happy as can be [=they seemed extremely happy] when I last saw them. b used in speech to express surprise or disbelief You must be joking! You can't/cannot (possibly) be serious! He can't really have meant that. [=I don't believe that he meant that] You can't (possibly) believe that! The price is \$50? That can't be right. [=that must be wrong] 4 a : to have permission to (do something) You can do it tomorrow if you like. Can I leave now? No, you can't. You can't leave until you finish washing the dishes. compare may 4 5 a used to say what should or should not be done You can't leave now! The party is just getting started! Why can't you be more polite? [=you should be more polite; why aren't you more polite?] b used in angry speech to tell someone to do something If you don't like it here, you can just leave! 6 a used to describe the way a person sometimes behaves She can be very rude at times. [=she is sometimes very rude] b used to describe something that sometimes or often happens In this part of the country the weather can change quickly. [=the weather often changes quickly] Usage Could is used as the past tense of can to describe an ability that someone had in the past or to say that something was possible in the past. I could run fast when I was young, but I can't run fast now. It used to be that you could drive for miles here without seeing another person, but now there are houses and people everywhere. To describe a specific occurrence in the past, use was/were able to instead of could. By working long hours, we were able to finish the project on time. In the future tense, will be able to is used. If you keep practicing, you'll be able to play the piano someday. She believes that someday people will be able to vote at home on their computers. Can can be used to suggest something that might happen in the future. If we save enough money, we can go to Hawaii for our vacation next year. no can do informal + humorous used in speech to say that you cannot do something that you have been asked or told to do Can you give me a ride to work tomorrow? Sorryno can do. My car is in the shop. (auxiliary verb, defective) To know how toAntonyms: cannot, can'tShe can speak English, French, and German.I can play football.1449. Reginald Pecock, Represser of over-much weeting [blaming] of the Clergie-prouyng which eny clerk can or wuel or mai make bi eny maner eydence of resoun or of Scripture, and namelich of resoun into the contrarie.1611 April (first recorded performance), William Shakespeare, The Tragedie of Cymbeline, in Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies[] (First Folio), London: [] Isaac Iaggard, and Ed[ward] Blount, published 1623, OCLC. [Act II, scene ii]:If thou canst awake by four o' the clock, / I prithee call me. Sleep hath seized me wholly.(auxiliary verb, defective) To be able to.Synonym: be able toAntonyms: cannot, can'tCan you remember your fifth birthday?Animals can experience emotions.Can you hear that?I can feel the baby moving inside me.2013 JulyAugust, Lee S. Langston, The Adaptable Gas Turbine, in American Scientist:Turbines have been around for a long timewindmills and water wheels are early examples. The name comes from the Latin turbo, meaning vortex, and thus the defining property of a turbine is that a fluid or gas turns the blades of a rotor, which is attached to a shaft that can perform useful work.(modal auxiliary verb, defective, informal) May; to be permitted or enabled to.Synonym: mayAntonyms: cannot, can't, may not, mayn'tYou can go outside and play when you're finished with your homework.Can I use your pen?(modal auxiliary verb, defective) To have the potential to; to be possible for (someone or something) to.Antonyms: cannot, can'tCan it be Friday already?Teenagers can really try their parents' patience.1921, Ben Travers, chapter 5, in A Cuckoo in the Nest, Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Page & Company, published 1925, OCLC:The most rapid and most seductive transition in all human nature is that which attends the palliation of a ravenous appetite. [] Can those harmless but refined fellow-diners be the selfish cads whose gluttony and personal appearance so raised your contemptuous wrath on your arrival?2009, Annette Sym, Simply Too Good to be True, Greenleaf Book Group, ISBN page 4:Teenagers can be so cruel, and nicknames cut deep.(modal auxiliary verb, defective, informal) Used to form requests, typically polite.Can you please come over here?Can we try that scene again?(India, nonstandard, proscribed) To be (followed by a word like able, possible, allowed) third-person singular simple present indicative of can2011 November 29, Tai-hoon Kim, Hoojat Adeli, Carlos Ramos, Byeong-Ho Kang, Signal Processing, Image Processing and Pattern Recognition: International Conferences, SIP 2011, Held as Part of the Future Generation Information Technology Conference, FGIT 2011, in Conjunction with GDC 2011, Jeju Island, Korea, December 8-10, 2011. Proceedings, Springer Science & Business Media, ISBN, page 114:Importance of Identifying Leaf: Identify Plants: If we can able to identify leaf, we can easily able to identify plants.2018 February 15, Asha Bajpai, Child Rights in India: Law, Policy, and Practice, Oxford University Press, ISBN:Children in need of care and protection can allowed to be placed in foster care based on the orders of the CWC. The selection of the foster family is based on the family's ability, intent, capacity, and prior experience of taking care[]2020 May 22, Pardeep Kumar, Vasaki Ponnusamy, Vishal Jain, Industrial Internet of Things and Cyber-Physical Systems: Transforming the Conventional to Digital: Transforming the Conventional to Digital, IGI Global, ISBN, page 226:It can possible to desgin the ruleset refreshes that allow them to subsequently run at precise interludes and these keep informed. (Manglish, Singlish, intransitive) To be fine, possible or acceptable; (with liao or already) to be fine or enough. Often used in conjunction with a variety of clause-final particles, e.g., lah, meh or one, to express different attitudes towards the subject matter.Can liao, dont need to use so much glue. Thats enough glue already.2015 September 5, Derrick Ho, Chew Hui Min, Lee Min Kok, Shea Driscoll, Nilanjana Sengupta, Melissa Heng, Ong Hwee Hwee, quoting Lee Hsien Loong, GE2015: 5 things about the third night of rallies on Sept 4, in The Straits Times:We have been doing this for 50 years, we have shown you what we can do. If I say can, means can. []2021 August 5, Zai Astha, The Lessons Were Still Learning Too Slowly About Mental Health and Suicide, in ricemedia.col[]], archived from the original on 11 December 2024.Its further exacerbated by well-intentioned but misguided relatives who say, youre from School X, can one lah, or worse, those who associate the very identity of being a student in an elite academy into a label analogous with expectations of high achievements.2024 June 10, Kimberly Lim, Whats With Singapores Surge in Self-Proclaimed Life Coaches?, in ricemedia.col[]], archived from the original on 19 September 2024.When controversial KOL Sylvia Chan resurfaced in March as a life coach, the general online sentiment was, Huh, can meh?to be able to; have the ability, power, or skill to.She can solve the problem easily, I'm sure to know how to.He can play chess, although he's not particularly good at it.to have the power or means to.A dictator can impose his will on the people.to have the right or qualifications to.He can change whatever he wishes in the script.may; have permission to.Can I speak to you for a moment?to have the possibility.A coin can land on either side. can, can, canst, can, can, could, couldst, could, could, can, can, could, cunning, a sealed container for food, beverages, etc., as of aluminum, sheet iron coated with tin, or other metal.a receptacle for garbage, ashes, etc..a bucket, pail, or other container for holding or carrying liquids.a drinking cup; tankard.a metal or plastic container for holding film on cores or reels.Slang: Usually Vulgar.toilet; bathroom.Slang.jail.He's been in the can for a week.Slang: Sometimes Vulgar.buttocks.Slang.cans, a set of headphones designed to cover the ears.Military Slang.a depth charge.a destroyer.to preserve by sealing in a can, jar, etc.Slang.to dismiss; fire.Slang.to throw (something) away.Slang.to put a stop to.to record, as on film or tape.a container, esp for liquids, usually of thin sheet metalanother name (esp US) for tinAlso called: canful.the contents of a can or the amount a can will holda slang word for prisona slang word for toilet or buttocks See toiletnavy a slang word for destroyerslangnavy a depth chargea shallow cylindrical metal container of varying size used for storing and handling filminformala complicated problemSee carry(of a film, piece of music, etc) having been recorded, processed, edited, etcinformalarranged or agreedthe contract is almost in the canCollins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012to put (food, etc) into a can or cans; preserve in a canslang(tr) to dismiss from a jobinformal(tr) to stop (doing something annoying or making an annoying noise) (esp in the phrase can it! Informal(tr) to reject or discardCollins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012used as an auxiliary to indicate ability, skill, or fitness to perform a taskI can run a mile in under four minutesused as an auxiliary to indicate permission or the right to somethingused as an auxiliary to indicate knowledge of how to do somethingcan speak three languages fluentlyused as an auxiliary to indicate the possibility, opportunity, or likelihoodmy trainer says I can win the race if I really work hardCollins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Can but and cannot but are formal and now somewhat old-fashioned expressions suggesting that there is no possible alternative to doing something. Can but is equivalent to can only: We can but do our best. Cannot but is the equivalent of cannot help but: We cannot but protest against these injustices. See also help.CanI and mayI are frequently but not always interchangeable in senses indicating possibility: A power failure can (or may ) occur at any time. Despite the insistence by some, that can means only to be able and may means to be permitted, both are regularly used in seeking or granting permission: Can (or May ) I borrow your glue gun? You can (or may ) use it tomorrow. Sentences using can occur chiefly in spoken English. May in this sense occurs more frequently in formal contexts: May I address the court, Your Honor? In negative constructions, can't or cannot is more common than may not : You can't have it today. I need it myself. The contraction mayn't is rare.Origin of can1First recorded before 900; Middle English, Old English, present indicative singular 1st, 3rd person of cunnan to know, know how; cognate with German, Old Norse, Gothic kann, ken, know 1Origin of can2First recorded before 1000; Middle English canne, can(e), Old English canne, cognate with German Kanne, Old Norse kanna, all perhaps from West Germanic; compare Late Latin canna small vesselOrigin of can1Old English canne; related to Old Norse, Old High German kanna, Irish gann, Swedish kana sledOrigin of can2Old English cunnan; related to Old Norse kunna, Old High German kunnan, Latin cōgnoscere to know, Sanskrit jñti he knows; see ken , uncouthExamples have not been reviewed.There will also be an interactive experience based on pirate series One Piece, where visitors can dodge villains to reach the Devil Fruit.It is important to note, however, that the constitutional definition of censorship establishes that only the government not citizens or businesses can be censors.Political scientist Erica Chenoweth, co-author of Why Civil Resistance Works, has argued that if just 3.5 percent of a countrys population actively and peacefully opposes the government, the protesters can begin to force some concessions.But people can unite to lead so that leaders will follow, and justice can prevail.The opening of Belfast's new maternity hospital could be delayed by another 28 months.bottlebucketcanisterjarpackageDefinitions and idiom definitions from Dictionary.com Unabridged, based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, Random House, Inc. 2023Idioms from The American Heritage Idioms Dictionary copyright 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.camwoodCanaBrowse#aabbccddeeffghhijjklmmnnooppqrrrsituuvvwxxyyzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day! 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC "Can" is one of the most commonly used modal verbs in English. It can be used to express ability or opportunity, and to show possibility or impossibility. Examples: I can ride a horse. We can stay with my brother when we are in Paris. She cannot stay out after 10 PM. Can you hand me the stapler? Any child can grow up to be president. Most modal verbs behave quite irregularly in the past and the future. Study the chart below to learn how "can" behaves in different contexts, Modal Use Positive Forms1. = Present 2. = Past 3. = Future Negative Forms1. = Present 2. = Past 3. = Future Also use: can 1. I can speak Chinese. 2. SHIFT TO "COULD" I could speak Chinese when I was a kid. 3. SHIFT TO "BE ABLE TO" I will be able to speak Chinese by the time I finish my course. 1. I can't speak Swahili. 2. SHIFT TO "COULD" I couldn't speak Swahili. 3. SHIFT TO "BE ABLE TO" I won't be able to speak Swahili. he able to can 1. With a burst of adrenaline, people can pick up cars. 2. SHIFT TO "BE ABLE TO" With a sudden burst of adrenaline, he was able to lift the car off the child's leg. 3. SHIFT TO "BE ABLE TO" With a sudden burst of adrenaline, he will be able to lift the car. 1. Even with a burst of adrenaline, people can't pick up something that heavy. 2. SHIFT TO "BE ABLE TO" Even the weight lifter, wasn't able to lift the car off the child's leg. 3. SHIFT TO "BE ABLE TO" Even three men working together won't be able to lift the car. be able to can 1. I have some free time. I can help her now. 2. SHIFT TO "BE ABLE TO" I had some free time yesterday. I was able to help her at that time. 3. I'll have some free time tomorrow. I can help her then. 1. I don't have any time. I can't help her now. 2. SHIFT TO "BE ABLE TO" I didn't have time yesterday. I wasn't able to help her at that time. 3. I won't have any time later. I can't help her then. be able to can 1. I can drive Susan's car when she is out of town. 2. SHIFT TO "BE ALLOWED TO " I was allowed to drive Susan's car while she was out of town last week. 3. I can drive Susan's car while she is out of town next week. 1. I can't drive Susan's car when she is out of town. 2. SHIFT TO "BE ALLOWED TO " I wasn't allowed to drive Susan's car while she was out of town last week. 3. I can't drive Susan's car while she is out of town next week. may can Can I have a glass of water? Can you give me a lift to school? Can't I have a glass of water? Can't you give me a lift to school? could, may can Anyone can become rich and famous if they know the right people. Learning a language can be a real challenge. It can't cost more than a dollar or two. You can't be 45! I thought you were about 18 years old. could Can Exercises Learn English at Englishpage.com!

**Can i get my labcorp results online. How to see my labcorp results. How do i access my labcorp results. Can i see my labcorp results. Can i view my lab results online. How do i see my lab results online. Can i see my lab results from labcorp. How to see my lab results from labcorp.**