

Basic English Grammar

can - could - to be able to

I can = io posso; io so (fare qualcosa)

Present Simple = presente semplice

I	can	= io posso	io so (fare qualcosa)
you	can	= tu puoi	tu sai
he	can	= egli può	egli sa ecc.
we	can		
you	can		
they	can		

Forma Interrogativa

Forma Negativa

Forma Contratta

can I ?
can you ?
can he ?

I cannot
you cannot
he cannot

I can't
you can't
he can't

can we ?
can you ?
can they ?

we cannot
you cannot
they cannot

we can't
you can't
they can't

Osserva

1. La 3^a persona del singolare non prende la "s".

He can speak French.

2. Nella forma interrogativa "can" precede il soggetto.

Can he speak French?

3. Nella forma negativa si aggiunge "not".

He cannot speak German.

4. "Can" va seguito da un infinito senza "to".

We can go to the cinema. (We can ~~to go~~...) *Errore!*

Basic English Grammar

1. **I can** = *io posso*

- What **can** we do this evening? Where **can** we go?
- We **can** go to the cinema.
- No, we **can't**. It is too hot. We **can** go to the public garden.

2. **I can** = *io so (fare qualcosa)*

- **Can** Tom speak English?
- Yes, he **can**. English is his language.
- **Can** he speak Chinese?
- No, he **cannot**. Chinese is a very difficult language.

*Can ha solamente 2 tempi: il Present Simple e il Past Simple.
Per gli altri tempi si usa "to be able" = (essere capace di).*

Present Simple

I **can** = *io posso; io so*
 you **can**
 he **can**

we **can**
 you **can**
 they **can**

Past Simple

I **could** = *io potei; io potevo*
 you **could** *io seppi; io sapevo*
 he **could**

we **could**
 you **could**
 they **could**

Basic English Grammar

Come si traduce **POTERE**

Per il "*present*" ed il "*past simple*" si usano rispettivamente "*can*" e "*could*". - Per gli altri tempi si usa il verbo "*to be able to*".

Present = *presente*

can = *posso, so (fare una cosa)*

> I **can** play tennis very well.

oppure

I **am able** to play tennis very well.

Past Simple = *passato*

could = *potevo, potei - sapevo, seppi (fare una cosa)*

> When I was younger I **could** climb tall trees.

oppure

When I was younger I **was able to** climb tall trees.

Nota

In genere, "*can*" e "*could*" sono intercambiabili con "*I am able to*" e "*I was able to*", ma "*can*" e "*could*" sono più diffusi.

Basic English Grammar

Infinitive = *infinito*

to be able to = *potere*

- > **To be able to** speak English fluently, you need to practice speaking and listening every day.

Future = *futuro*

I will be able = *potrò, saprò fare una cosa*

- > If it doesn't rain tomorrow I **will be able** to work in my garden.
~~will can~~ *non esiste*

Conditional = *condizionale*

I would be able = *potrei, saprei (fare una cosa)*

- > If I won the lottery, I **would be able to** visit the world.
oppure
If I won a lottery ticket I **could** visit the world.

Present Perfect = *passato prossimo*

I have been able = *ho potuto, ho saputo (fare una cosa)*

- > I **have been able** to go to college, thanks to my parents' sacrifices.

Past Perfect = *trapassato prossimo*

I had been able = *avevo potuto, avevo saputo (fare una cosa)*

- > Mum **had been able to** prepare a delicious dinner, before we got home.

Basic English Grammar

Could

Nota

"Could" corrisponde a vari tempi dei verbi "potere" e "saper fare qualcosa".

1. Imperfetto

When my son was only 7, he **could** already speak three languages: English, Spanish and Italian. ...*sapeva*...

2. Passato Remoto

Yesterday I studied for 8 hours, but I **couldn't** finish my project.
...*non potei / non ho potuto*...

3. Condizionale Presente

If you studied more, you **could** speak English fluently by the end of the year. ...*potresti*...

4. Congiuntivo Imperfetto

If I **could** take away the pain and put a smile on your face
Baby I would, baby I would... ...*se potessi*...

A song by Justin Bieber

Differenza fra "could" e "was able"

- > Last year I made so much money that I **could** buy a Ferrari.
(*Potevo comprarla, ma non lo feci.*)
- > Last year I made so much money that I **was able** to buy a Ferrari.
(*Potevo comprarla, e lo feci.*)