

Free English Grammar * Grammatica Inglese Gratis

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

can	I ?
can	you ?
can	he ?
can	we ?
can	you ?
can	they ?

Forma Negativa

I	cannot
you	cannot
he	cannot
we	cannot
you	cannot
they	cannot

Forma Contratta

I	can't
you	can't
he	can't
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!**

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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

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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.

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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.

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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.*)