



# ENGLISH GRAMMAR 1

## ELEMENTARY LEVEL

Unit 30 – Can and could

*tienganh*





# Can and could

## GIỚI THIỆU

A



**can + infinitive (can do / can play / can come etc):**

I/We/You/They He/She/It	can can't (cannot)	do play see come etc.
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Can	I/we/you/they he/she/it	do? play? see? come? etc.
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# Can and could

## CÁCH DÙNG

B

I can do something = I know how to do it,  
or it is possible for me to do it

- Ex1: I **can play** the piano. My brother **can play** the piano too.
- Ex2: Sarah **can speak** Italian, but she **can't speak** Spanish.
- Ex3: A: **Can you swim?**  
B: Yes, but I'm not a very good swimmer.
- Ex4: A: **Can you change** twenty pounds?  
B: I'm sorry, I **can't**.
- Ex5: I'm having a party next week, but Paul and Rachel **can't come**.



# Can and could

## COULD AND COULDN'T

### C

For **the past (yesterday / last week etc.)**, we use **could/couldn't**

- Ex6: When I was young, I **could run** very fast.
- Ex7: Before Maria came to Britain, she **couldn't understand** much English. Now she can understand everything.
- Ex8: I was tired last night, but I **couldn't sleep**.
- Ex9: I had a party last week, but Paul and Rachel **couldn't come**.



# Can and could

## QUESTIONS WITH CAN / COULD

D

### Can you ... ? Could you ... ? Can I ... ? Could I ... ?

- ❖ We use **Can you ... ?** or **Could you ... ?** when we ask people to do things:
  - Ex10: **Can you open** the door, please? or **Could you open the door, please?**
  - Ex11: **Can you wait** a moment, please? or **Could you wait ... ?**
- ❖ We use **Can I have ... ?** or **Can I get ... ?** to ask for something:
  - Ex12: **Can I have** a glass of water, please? or **Can I get ... ?**
- ❖ **Can I ?** or **Could I ... ?** = is it OK to do something?:
  - Ex13: **Can I sit** here?
  - Ex14: Tom, **could I borrow** your umbrella?