

# 6

can/can't/was/were • could/couldn't

Words that go together • Prepositions

Writing – formal letters 1

## Can you speak English?

### can/can't

#### 1 What can they do?

**T61** What can the people do? What can't they do? Complete the sentences with *can* or *can't* + verb.



	play the guitar	play the piano	use a computer	program a computer	ride a motorbike	drive a car
Adam	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Flora	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Sam	X	✓	X	X	X	✓
Carla	X	X	X	X	✓	✓

- Adam can't play the guitar and he can't play the piano.
- Adam \_\_\_\_\_ a motorbike and he \_\_\_\_\_ a car.
- Adam \_\_\_\_\_ a computer, but he \_\_\_\_\_ a computer.
- Flora \_\_\_\_\_ a car, but she \_\_\_\_\_ a motorbike.
- Only Sam \_\_\_\_\_.
- Only Flora \_\_\_\_\_.
- Sam \_\_\_\_\_ and Flora can't either, but Carla and Adam can.
- Nobody \_\_\_\_\_.
- Everybody \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 2 What can you do?

Complete the questions with *can* and a verb from the box. Then match the questions and answers.

play (x2) speak  
ride use cook drive

- ☐ Can you play the piano?
  - ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ any other languages?
  - ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ the guitar?
  - ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ a motorbike?
  - ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ a computer?
  - ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ Italian food?
  - ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ a car?
- Yes, I can. French and Spanish.
  - Yes, I can, but I can't program one.
  - No, I can't. I think they're dangerous.
  - No, I can't, but I love eating it.
  - No, I can't, but I can play the piano.
  - Yes, I can. I like playing Bach.
  - Yes, I can. I have a Fiat Uno.

# was/were

## 3 Present or past?

Complete the sentences with *am, is, are, was, or were*.

- 1 The homework was very difficult yesterday.
- 2 Hello, everybody! I \_\_\_\_\_ sorry  
I \_\_\_\_\_ late!
- 3 'Where \_\_\_\_\_ you born?'  
'I \_\_\_\_\_ born in India.'
- 4 'Where \_\_\_\_\_ your sister born?'  
'She \_\_\_\_\_ born in India, too.'
- 5 The weather \_\_\_\_\_ beautiful today. It \_\_\_\_\_ terrible yesterday.
- 6 The children \_\_\_\_\_ very tired today. They \_\_\_\_\_ at a party yesterday evening.
- 7 I could play chess when I \_\_\_\_\_ five.
- 8 We \_\_\_\_\_ married when I \_\_\_\_\_ eighteen and Roger \_\_\_\_\_ twenty.

## 4 How much was it before?

- 1 Label the pictures in 2 below using the words in the box.

camera bag wine glasses pens briefcase television

- 2 **T 6.2** Look at the prices. Write a conversation for each picture.

**SALE!!! SALE!!! SALE!!! SALE!!!**

- 1 A How much is the bag?  
B It's only £20.  
A How much was it before?  
B It was £39.99.  
A Well ... what a bargain!



- 2 A \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_



- 3 A \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_



- 4 A \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_



- 5 A \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_



- 6 A \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_



## 5 Questions and short answers

- 1 **T 6 3** Read about David and Rosa.

### DAVID AND ROSA'S DAY

David is an architect and Rosa is a doctor in a large hospital. David gets up at 7.30 a.m. and has a shower. He leaves home at 8.30 and goes to work by train. He arrives at the office at 9.00.

Rosa gets up at 9.30 because she doesn't start work until 1.00 in the afternoon. She goes by bus to the hospital at 12.15.

David finishes work at 5.30 p.m. and goes shopping in a supermarket near the office. Then he goes home and cooks the dinner. He eats alone in the kitchen at 7.00 and then he usually watches TV in the living room until Rosa arrives home at 10.00. She often has her dinner in front of the TV.

David goes to bed at 11.00, but Rosa usually goes to bed a bit later.



- 2 **T 6 4** Write short answers to the questions. Some of the questions are about yesterday.

1 Is David a doctor? No, he isn't.

2 Does Rosa work in a hospital?

3 Where were David and Rosa at seven o'clock yesterday morning?

4 Was David in the bathroom at twenty-five to eight?

5 Was David at work yesterday?

6 Was Rosa at work yesterday morning?

7 Where was Rosa at twenty past twelve?

8 Can David cook?

9 Where was Rosa at seven o'clock yesterday evening?

10 Where were they at half past ten last night?

## could/couldn't

- 6 When I was three I could ...

1 Write three things you could do when you were three.

1 I could run.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Write three things you can do now that you couldn't do when you were three.

1 I couldn't swim when I was three, but I can now.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

3 Write two things you couldn't do when you were three and you still can't do!

1 I couldn't ski when I was three and I still can't.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary

## 7 Words that go together

1 Match a verb in A with a word or phrase in B.

A	B
stay	fluently
ask	the answer
know	a question
start	a phone call
go	in a hotel
get up	work
live	home
speak English	pictures
make	early
paint	alone

2 Complete the conversations with a word or words from exercise 1 in the correct form.

- A Maria! Do you \_\_\_\_\_ the answer?

B I'm sorry. I can't remember the question!
- A Your son is a very good artist.

B Thank you very much. He could \_\_\_\_\_ when he was just three.
- A Can you play tennis at nine o'clock on Sunday?

B I'm sorry. I never \_\_\_\_\_ on Sundays. I stay in bed until eleven.
- A What time do you \_\_\_\_\_ every day?

B I'm always in the office and at my desk at 9.00.
- A Is your friend English?

B No, she isn't, but she \_\_\_\_\_.
- A Does your sister \_\_\_\_\_?

B No, she doesn't. She lives with two friends.
- A Do you want to go to the cinema after work?

B No, thanks. I'm really tired. I just want to \_\_\_\_\_.

## 8 Prepositions

Complete the sentences with a preposition from the box.

by with of in on at to

- I was \_\_\_\_\_ Adam's party \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday.
- John lives \_\_\_\_\_ home \_\_\_\_\_ his parents.
- Tom is \_\_\_\_\_ the garden \_\_\_\_\_ his friend Sam.
- I go \_\_\_\_\_ work \_\_\_\_\_ bus and I'm \_\_\_\_\_ work until 5.30 p.m. every day.
- She was \_\_\_\_\_ the cinema \_\_\_\_\_ her boyfriend \_\_\_\_\_ Friday evening.
- Queen Elizabeth II was born \_\_\_\_\_ London \_\_\_\_\_ 1926.
- 'Can you help me \_\_\_\_\_ my homework?'  
'\_\_\_\_\_ course I can; give it \_\_\_\_\_ me.'
- Look \_\_\_\_\_ this photo \_\_\_\_\_ my girlfriend. Isn't she beautiful?



# Writing

## 9 Formal letters 1

### 1 Read the advertisement for a job.

Carol is interested in the job. Read the information about her and complete her letter.

<b>Name</b>	Carol Barnes
<b>Age</b>	28
<b>Address</b>	4 Hope Road, Oxford OX6 5PP
<b>Present job</b>	Tourist guide
<b>Last job</b>	Hotel receptionist
<b>Languages</b>	French, Spanish

**THE OXFORD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**  
*wants*  
**a receptionist**

- Do you like working with people?
- Can you speak two foreign languages?
- Can you use a computer?
- Do you know Oxford well?

Please write to Anne Watson  
Director  
The Oxford International School  
16 College Street  
Oxford OX2 7PT

### 2 Study the organization of Carol's letter.

The name and address of the person you are writing to go here.

The date goes here.

We begin all letters, both formal and informal, with *Dear ...*

We use *Ms*, *Miss*, or *Mrs* for a woman. We use *Mr* for a man.

We do not use short forms (*I'm*, *he's*, *it's*, *they're*) in formal letters.

We end formal letters with *Yours sincerely*.

Sign the letter and print your name.

Paragraph 1  
Introduction

Paragraph 2  
The main part of the letter

Paragraph 3  
Ending

4 Hope (1)  
Oxford OX6 5PP

Anne Watson  
Director  
The Oxford International School  
16 College (2)  
Oxford OX2 7PT

August 19

Dear Ms Watson

I am interested in the job of (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in your school.  
I (4) \_\_\_\_\_ years old and I (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in Oxford. At  
the moment I (6) \_\_\_\_\_ guide, but last year  
I (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a hotel receptionist. I (8) \_\_\_\_\_ working  
with people very much and I (9) \_\_\_\_\_ speak two  
(10) \_\_\_\_\_, French and Spanish. I can also (11) \_\_\_\_\_  
a computer. I (12) \_\_\_\_\_ born in Oxford, so I know it  
very well.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely  
*Carol Barnes*  
Carol Barnes

### 3 Look at the advertisement for another job and write a similar letter.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
*want* **TOURIST GUIDES**

- Are you over 18?
- Do you like talking to people?
- Do you know your town well?
- Can you speak English?
- Are you free from July to September?

Please write to  
Peter Mann.  
Happy Holidays.  
Central Office,  
89 Brook Street,  
LONDON W1 5FW