

5

Super me!

can/can't • was/were/could • Words that go together • Polite requests

STARTER

Do you know the comic hero, Superman? Where does he come from? What can he do?

T 5.1 Listen and compare your ideas.



SUPERMAN IS FANTASTIC!

can/can't

- 1** Alfie and his cousin Ivy are talking about Superman.
Complete what Alfie says using *can* and the verbs in the box.

Alfie Superman's fantastic!

Ivy Hmm! What **can** he **do**?

Alfie He **can do** everything!

Ivy No, he **can't**!

Alfie Yes, he **can**. He _____ at the speed of light, he _____
through buildings, *and* he _____ every language in the world!

speak see fly

T 5.2 Listen and check.

- 2 T 5.3** Listen to the rest of the conversation. Answer the questions.

- Which languages do they talk about?
- Which sports do they talk about?

- 3** Complete the lines from the conversation with *can* or *can't* + verb.

1 ' Can you _____ any languages?'

'Yes, I can. I _____ French and Spanish.'

2 'You _____ French at all!'

3 'I _____ skateboard! You _____!'

4 ' _____ you _____?'

'I _____ a bit, but my mum and dad _____ brilliantly.'

5 'Superman _____ everything. There's nothing
Superman _____!'

T 5.4 Listen and check. Practise the sentences with a partner.



PRACTICE

Ivy can't cook. Can you?

GRAMMAR AND PRONUNCIATION

- 1 Say all persons of *can* and *can't*. What do you notice?

I can, you can, he ..., she ..., it ..., we ..., they ...
I can't, you ...

- 2 **T 5.5** Listen and repeat these sentences.

I **can** speak French. = /kən/
Can you speak French? = /kən/
Yes, I **can**. = /kæn/
No, I **can't**. = /kɑ:nt/

- 3 Say these sentences.

• • • • •
You can swim. I can't ski.

▶▶ Grammar Reference 5.1 p137

- 1 **T 5.6** Listen and complete the chart for Ivy. Put (✓) or (X).

Can ...?	Ivy	Your partner
speak a foreign language	✓	
cook	X	
skateboard		
swim		
play tennis		
ski		
play any musical instruments		

- 2 Work with a partner. Ask and answer questions about Ivy.

Can Ivy ... ?

Yes, she can. / No, she can't.

- 3 Complete the sentences about Ivy with adverbs from the box.

(not) at all (x2)	a (little) bit (x2)	quite well
very well	really well	brilliantly

- She can speak Spanish a little bit.
- She can't cook _____.
- She can swim _____.
- She can play tennis _____.
- She can ski _____.
- Her dad can play the guitar _____.
- Her mum can play the piano _____.
- She can't play anything _____.

- T 5.7** Listen and compare the sentences.

- 4 Ask questions to complete the chart in exercise 1 about your partner.

Can you speak Spanish?

Yes, but not very well.

- 5 Tell the class about you and your partner.

José can speak Spanish really well, but I can't.

- 6 **T 5.8** Listen and underline what you hear.

- She can / can't cook.
 - I can / can't hear you.
 - They can / can't come to the party.
 - Can / Can't you see my glasses anywhere?
 - You can / can't always get what you want.
 - Can / Can't you do the homework?
- 7 With a partner, take turns saying the sentences. Say if you hear *can* or *can't*.



TODAY AND YESTERDAY

Past – was/were/could

1 **T 5.9** Read and listen to the questions about the present and the past. Complete the answers.

Present

- 1 What day is it today?
It's _____.
- 2 What month is it now?
It's _____.
- 3 Is it sunny today?
_____, it is. / _____, it isn't.
- 4 Where are you now?
I'm in/at _____.
- 5 Where are your parents now?
They're in/at _____.
- 6 Are you in England now?
_____, I am. / _____, I'm not.
- 7 Can you ski?
_____, I can. / _____, I can't.
- 8 Can your teacher speak a lot of languages?
Yes, _____ can. / No, _____ can't.

Past

- What day was it yesterday?
It was _____.
- What month was it last month?
It was _____.
- Was it sunny yesterday?
_____, it was. / _____, it wasn't.
- Where were you yesterday?
I was in/at _____.
- Where were they yesterday?
They were in/at _____.
- Were you in England last year?
_____, I was. / _____, I wasn't.
- Could you ski when you were five?
_____, I could. / _____, I couldn't.
- Could your teacher speak English when he/she was seven?
Yes, _____ could. / No, _____ couldn't.

GRAMMAR AND PRONUNCIATION

1 Complete the Past Simple of *to be*.

	Positive	Negative
I	<u>was</u>	<u>wasn't</u>
you	<u>were</u>	<u>weren't</u>
he/she/it	_____	_____
we	<u>were</u>	_____
they	_____	_____

2 What is the past of *can*? Positive Negative
I/you/he/she/it/we/they _____

3 **T 5.10** Listen and repeat the sentences.

► Grammar Reference 5.2 – 5.3 p137

2 Ask and answer the questions about the past in exercise 1 with a partner.

What day was it yesterday?

It was ...

3 Complete the sentences with the past of the verb *to be* and *can*.

- 1 I wasn't at school yesterday because I _____ ill.
- 2 My parents _____ at work last week. They _____ on holiday in Spain.
- 3 Where _____ you last night? I phoned, but you _____ at home.
- 4 I _____ read and write when I _____ just five.
- 5 My sister _____ read until she _____ seven.

Talking about you

4 Work with a partner. Ask and answer questions about you.

- at 8.00 this morning
- at 10.00 last night
- at this time yesterday
- last Saturday evening
- last Sunday morning

Where were you at 8.00 this morning?

I was at home/in bed/
at work/in town ...

PRACTICE

Child prodigies

- 1 Look at the photos. Who are the children?
What can they do? Why are they 'child prodigies'?



Marc Yu



Cleopatra Stratan

- 2 **T 5.11** Listen and complete the sentences about Marc Yu.
Read them aloud.

Marc Yu – Pianist

- 1 He was born on January _____, 19 _____, in California, USA.
 - 2 He _____ the piano and the cello.
 - 3 He _____ the piano when he _____.
 - 4 He _____ the cello when he _____.
- Last year, he played with Lang Lang, the famous Chinese pianist, in New York. They _____ a big success.

- 3 Work with a partner. Look at the information and make sentences about Cleopatra.

Cleopatra Stratan – Singer

- 1 She/born/October 7th, 2002/Moldova, near Romania.
- 2 She/sing beautifully when/just two years old.
- 3 When/three, she made an album, *La vârstă de trei ani*.
- 4 Her album/a big success. 150,000/sold round the world.

T 5.12 Listen and check.

- 4 Ask and answer questions about Marc and Cleopatra.
- When / born?
 - Where / born?
 - How old / when / could ...?

Listening

- 5 Pablo Picasso was also a child prodigy. Read and complete the conversation about him.

Pablo Picasso

25 October 1881–8 April 1973



- A Hey, look at that painting! It's a Picasso!
- B Oh yes! Fantastic!
- A Where ¹ was Picasso born?
- B In Málaga.
- A Ah! So he ² _____ Spanish?
- B Yes, he ³ _____.
- A ⁴ _____ his parents rich?
- B Well, they ⁵ _____ rich and they ⁶ _____ poor. His father, Don José, ⁷ _____ a painter and a professor of art. His mother, Doña Maria, ⁸ _____ a housewife.
- A So, ⁹ _____ Picasso good at drawing when he ¹⁰ _____ young?
- B Oh, yes. He ¹¹ _____ a child prodigy. He ¹² _____ draw before he ¹³ _____ speak. His first word ¹⁴ _____ *lápiz*, which is Spanish for *pencil*.
- A Wow! What a story!



T 5.13 Listen and check. Practise the conversation.

Talking about you

Work in groups. Ask and answer the questions about you.

- 1 When/born?
- 2 Where/born?
- 3 Where/parents born?
- 4 How old were you when you could ...?
 - walk • talk • read • swim • ride a bike
 - use a computer • speak a foreign language

►► **WRITING** A formal email p108

READING AND SPEAKING

A talented family

- 1 Do you have any talented people in your family? What can they do?
- 2 Look at the pictures of Nicola Benedetti and her father, Gio. Read the introduction to the article. Answer the questions.
 - 1 What does Nicola do?
 - 2 Why was 2004 special for her?
 - 3 Where does she live?
 - 4 What does her sister do?
 - 5 What does her father do?
- 3 Work in two groups.

Group A Read about **Nicola**. Answer these questions.

- 1 Was music important in her family?
- 2 How old was Nicola when she could play the violin?
- 3 Did her father work hard?
- 4 Were her grandparents rich or poor?
- 5 Is money important to Nicola and her father?
- 6 Does her father like classical music?
- 7 What does she teach her father? What does he teach her?
- 8 When does she play the violin with her sister?

Group B Read about **Gio**. Answer these questions.

- 1 Where was Gio born?
 - 2 Why couldn't he buy the Jaguar car?
 - 3 What was Gio's business?
 - 4 How old was Nicola when she could play the violin?
 - 5 Can Gio play a musical instrument?
 - 6 What music does he like? What doesn't he like?
 - 7 Does Nicola work hard?
 - 8 Why does he cry?
- 4 Work with a partner from the other group. Tell your partner about your person.

Language work

- 5 Who or what do these adjectives from the text refer to?

busy	important	difficult	proud
hard-working	classical	expensive	passionate
poor	close	independent	sentimental

Nicola's father was always busy.

What do you think?

Work as a class. Discuss the questions.

- Do Nicola and Gio have a good relationship?
- How are they similar? How are they different?
- Does Nicola have a good relationship with her sister?
- What about *your* family? Who are you close to? Why?

A PASSION FOR SUCCESS



Nicola Benedetti is a world-famous violinist. She was the BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2004 when she was 16. She lives in Chiswick, west London, near her sister, Stephanie, who is also a violinist. Their father, Gio Benedetti, is a businessman. He lives with his wife, Francesca, in Scotland.



Nicola Benedetti

A PASSION FOR

Music



“When I was young, music wasn’t very important in our house. Then, when I was four, I started playing the violin. In my first lesson, I was so happy, I couldn’t stop crying.

My dad, Gio, was always busy. He was very hard-working. His parents were poor, so he wanted to give me and my sister everything. I like hard work too, and I know what I want – if someone says to me “You can’t do that”, I think “Oh yes I can!” That’s very like my dad.

But my dad’s a businessman, and I’m an artist. Money is very important to him, but for me, success isn’t the same as earning lots of money. He likes the music I play, but he doesn’t like classical music very much. I teach him about music, and he tells me about business.

My sister and I are very close. We sometimes play together – not professionally, but at family occasions like weddings and at Christmas.

I live for my work. I never want to stop.
Music is my life.”



Gio Benedetti

A PASSION FOR

Business



“I was born in a small village near Lucca in Italy. We were poor but happy. When I was ten, I came to Scotland to live with my uncle. It was very difficult.

When I was 16, there was a beautiful car – a Jaguar – in the shops but I couldn’t afford it. It was too expensive. So I started a business to make money – a dry-cleaning business. Soon there were 15 shops. By the time I was 19, I could afford the Jaguar. That was a very good day!

Nicola was always independent, like me. She could play the violin when she was four. Now she plays concerts all over the world. I am so proud of her. She practises for seven hours a day. Scotland is so proud of her. Everybody knows her now.

I can’t play any musical instruments. I like country and western music, but not classical. Nicola knows what she wants. She has a passion to succeed, like me, and she works very hard to get it. When she plays the violin, she’s passionate – that’s the Italian in her. When I see her play, I often cry. I can’t help it. I’m very sentimental.”



VOCABULARY AND LISTENING

Words that go together

Noun + noun

- 1 Match a noun in A with a noun in B.
Do we write one word or two?

post office businessman

A	B
book	room
motor (x2)	shop/store
sun	station (x2)
living	park
bus	way
hand	bike
railway	lights
car	stop
traffic	glasses
petrol	bag

- 2 Test the other students on the nouns that go together.

This is where we buy books.

A book shop.

- 3 **T 5.14** Listen to three conversations. Write all the noun + noun combinations you hear.

1 post office, _____, _____

2 _____, _____, _____

3 _____, _____, _____

- 4 With a partner, write a short conversation. Include some noun + noun combinations. Act your conversation to the class.



Verb + noun

- 5 Match a verb with a noun.

verb	noun
send	a car
drive	children
ride	a lot of text messages
speak	a suit and tie
earn	TV a lot
live	three languages
play	a motorbike
wear	on the third floor
look after	a lot of money
watch	the guitar

- 6 Ask and answer questions.

Do you send a lot of text messages?

No, I don't.

Do you earn a lot of money?

Don't be silly! Of course not!

- 7 **T 5.15** Listen to the short conversations. After each one say which verb + noun combinations you hear.

- 8 Work with a partner. Look at **T 5.15** on p123. Choose two of the conversations and learn them by heart.

Prepositions

- 9 Complete the sentences with a preposition from the box.

of to from on at with for

- Do you like listening to music?
- What sort _____ music do you like?
- Where's your girlfriend _____? Is she Mexican?
- Is Paula married _____ Mike?
- Do you want to come shopping _____ me?
- Were there any good programmes _____ television last night?
- What do you want _____ your birthday?
- Can I speak _____ Dave? Is he _____ work today?

- T 5.16** Listen and check. What are the replies? Practise the conversations.

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

Polite requests

1 **T 5.17** Listen and complete the conversations. Where are the people?



2 What differences are there in A's requests in exercise 1?

- 1 *Can/Could I ...?* and *Can/Could you ...?* express a request.
Can/Could I ask you a question?
Can/Could you do something for me?
- 2 *Can/Could* express an ability.
I *can* swim./I *could* swim when I was four.

3 **T 5.18** Listen and repeat the requests.
Notice how the intonation falls and rises.

Can I have a coffee, please? Could you tell me the time, please?

Practise the conversations in exercise 1.

4 Complete the requests with *Can/Could I ...?* or *Can/Could you ...?*

- 1 *Can I* _____ have a cheese sandwich, please?
- 2 _____ post this letter for me, please?
- 3 _____ give me your email address?
- 4 _____ speak to you for a moment?
- 5 _____ lend me £20 till tomorrow?
- 6 _____ give me a hand with this box?

T 5.19 Listen and compare. Can you remember the replies?
Practise with a partner.

5 Have more conversations with some of these prompts.

- a cola pay by credit card
- the bill a vanilla ice-cream
- a glass of water a return ticket
- borrow your dictionary do me a favour
- try on these jeans sit next to you
- give me a lift open the window

