

Adapted from: Elementary Language Practice by Michael Vince

Explanations

can

Statements

I can swim.

You can swim.

He can swim.

She can swim.

It can swim.

We can swim.

They can swim.

Negatives

I can't swim.

You can't

swim.

He can't swim.

She can't swim.

It can't swim.

We can't swim.

They can't swim.

Questions

Can I swim?

Can you swim?

Can he swim?

Can she swim?

Can it swim?

Can we swim?

Can they swim?

cannot

I cannot swim. In formal writing and speech.

Short answers

Can you see it?

Yes, I can.

No, I can't.

Tag questions

You can see it, can't you?

You can't see it, can you?

Examples

Can you ride a bike?

Sorry, but I can't come to your party on

Friday. I can't lift this table.

Careful!

For the past, **could** is used. For the future, **be able to**.