



Beginner 2 | Lesson 6 | Can / Cannot

My Abilities

Abidemi talks about things she can and cannot do.

Todd: So, Abidemi, let's talk about abilities.

Abidemi: Sure.

Todd: So, you seem to be very talented.

Abidemi: Well, thank you.

Todd: Can _____ well?

Abidemi: No. I don't consider myself a good singer.

Todd: No, I _____ well.

Abidemi: No, I can't sing well.

Todd: No? Not _____?

Abidemi: Not really.

Todd: Do you _____? Do you sing at karaoke? Do you sing at church?

Abidemi: I sing once in a while, but I _____ like it so much.

Todd: Do you _____ to yourself at home? Like, sing in the shower? Sing while cleaning the house?

Abidemi: Yes, I do. I enjoy music a lot. I listen to a lot of music, and sometimes I sing along.

Todd: Yeah, I don't think I _____. I don't like singing. I can't sing. I have a terrible, terrible voice.

Abidemi: Really?

Todd: Yeah. People say I'm _____, so when I sing, my voice is flat. (singing) Very bad.

Abidemi: I see.

Todd: Yeah. I want to sing. I really do, but I have a bad voice.

Abidemi: I'm sure there are plenty of other things that you do very well.

Todd: Yeah, maybe. How about cooking? Can _____ well?

Abidemi: Cooking is another activity that I'm not so good at.

Todd: No?



Quiz

1) Can Abidemi sing well?

- a) Yes, she can.
- b) Not really.
- c) She does not say.

2) Can Todd sing well?

- a) Yes, he can.
- b) No, not at all.
- c) He does not say.

3) What can she cook well?

- a) Nothing.
- b) Some things.
- c) She does not say.

4) What can she do well?

- a) Dance.
- b) Play guitar.
- c) Play piano.

5) Can she play the piano?

- a) Yes, she can.
- b) No, she cannot.
- c) She does not say.

Grammar Challenge

Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| do that | you cook | very good | ever sing |
| you sing | tone deaf | don't really | sing often |
| can't cook | at all | can't sing | I cook |

Speaking Challenge

Match the answers with the questions.

- 1) Can you sing well?
- 2) Can you cook well?
- 3) Can you play an instrument?
- 4) Can you dance well?
- 5) Can you speak other languages?

- _____
- () Yes, I play the guitar.
 - () No, my voice is terrible.
 - () Yes, I have a few moves.
 - () Yes, I know French and Chinese.
 - () No, I am a terrible cook.

What about you? Share your answers to the questions.

Go online to ello.org

Go online for the complete lesson!

1. Listen to the audio or video.
2. Check your answers.
3. Access 100s of free lessons.



Abidemi: I'm not _____ at cooking.

Todd: You _____?

Abidemi: I have a few dishes that _____ really well, but I think I'm too lazy. I don't learn new ones.

Todd: Yeah, I'm the same. I don't cook, so I can't cook. Right? So, we say, "Practice makes perfect," but I never cook, so I can't cook.

Abidemi: I see what you mean.

Todd: Yeah.

Abidemi: One thing that I do do well, and really enjoy, is dancing.

Todd: You're a good dancer?

Abidemi: Some people have said that I'm good.

Todd: Nice. What style of dancing do you like?

Abidemi: I like hip-hop, dance music. When I was younger, I took some jazz classes, and I really enjoyed those as well.

Todd: So, there's jazz dancing?

Abidemi: Yes, there is.

Todd: Oh wow. What about salsa dancing? Or tango dancing?

Abidemi: I like those too, but usually you need a partner for those. So unless my husband wants to dance... but my husband doesn't really like dancing.

Todd: I understand. I'm the same. I can relate.



Grammar

Can / Cannot

Point 1: We use **can** to show abilities.

1. I can play tennis.
2. She can speak Italian.
3. They can build a computer.
4. This dictionary can hold one million words.

Point 2: The negative form of can has three spellings: **can not**, **cannot** and **can't**.

1. I can't go tonight.
2. She cannot speak German.
3. I can not get an Internet connection.
4. My car cannot go very fast.

Point 3: The adverb **well** is used to show a high ability at doing something.

1. Can you speak Japanese well?
2. I cannot speak it very well. I can speak it just a little.
3. What can you do well?
4. I can cook fairly well.

Point 4: The phrase **be good at** means you can do something well.

1. Are you good at sports?
2. Yes, I am pretty good at sports.
3. Are you good at computers?
4. No, I am not good at computers at all.



Beginner 2 | Lesson 6 | Can / Cannot

My Abilities

Abidemi talks about things she can and cannot do.

Todd: So, Abidemi, let's talk about abilities.

Abidemi: Sure.

Todd: So, you seem to be very talented.

Abidemi: Well, thank you.

Todd: Can you sing well?

Abidemi: No. I don't consider myself a good singer.

Todd: No, I can't sing well.

Abidemi: No, I can't sing well.

Todd: No? Not at all?

Abidemi: Not really.

Todd: Do you sing often? Do you sing at karaoke? Do you sing at church?

Abidemi: I sing once in a while, but I don't really like it so much.

Todd: Do you ever sing to yourself at home? Like, sing in the shower? Sing while cleaning the house?

Abidemi: Yes, I do. I enjoy music a lot. I listen to a lot of music, and sometimes I sing along.

Todd: Yeah, I don't think I do that. I don't like singing. I can't sing. I have a terrible, terrible voice.

Abidemi: Really?

Todd: Yeah. People say I'm tone deaf, so when I sing, my voice is flat. (singing) Very bad.

Abidemi: I see.

Todd: Yeah. I want to sing. I really do, but I have a bad voice.

Abidemi: I'm sure there are plenty of other things that you do very well.

Todd: Yeah, maybe. How about cooking? Can you cook well?

Abidemi: Cooking is another activity that I'm not so good at.

Todd: No?



Quiz

1) Can Abidemi sing well?

- a) Yes, she can.
- b) Not really.
- c) She does not say.

2) Can Todd sing well?

- a) Yes, he can.
- b) No, not at all.
- c) He does not say.

3) What can she cook well?

- a) Nothing.
- b) Some things.
- c) She does not say.

4) What can she do well?

- a) Dance.
- b) Play guitar.
- c) Play piano.

5) Can she play the piano?

- a) Yes, she can.
- b) No, she cannot.
- c) She does not say.

Grammar Challenge

Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

| | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| do that | you cook | very good | ever sing |
| you sing | tone deaf | don't really | sing often |
| can't cook | at all | can't sing | I cook |

Speaking Challenge

Match the answers with the questions.

- 1) Can you sing well?
- 2) Can you cook well?
- 3) Can you play an instrument?
- 4) Can you dance well?
- 5) Can you speak other languages?

-
- (3) Yes, I play the guitar.
 - (1) No, my voice is terrible.
 - (4) Yes, I have a few moves.
 - (5) Yes, I know French and Chinese.
 - (2) No, I am a terrible cook.

What about you? Share your answers to the questions.

Go online to ello.org

Go online for the complete lesson!

1. Listen to the audio or video.
2. Check your answers.
3. Access 100s of free lessons.



Abidemi: I'm not **very good** at cooking.

Todd: You **can't cook**?

Abidemi: I have a few dishes that **I cook** really well, but I think I'm too lazy. I don't learn new ones.

Todd: Yeah, I'm the same. I don't cook, so I can't cook. Right? So, we say, "Practice makes perfect," but I never cook, so I can't cook.

Abidemi: I see what you mean.

Todd: Yeah.

Abidemi: One thing that I do do well, and really enjoy, is dancing.

Todd: You're a good dancer?

Abidemi: Some people have said that I'm good.

Todd: Nice. What style of dancing do you like?

Abidemi: I like hip-hop, dance music. When I was younger, I took some jazz classes, and I really enjoyed those as well.

Todd: So, there's jazz dancing?

Abidemi: Yes, there is.

Todd: Oh wow. What about salsa dancing? Or tango dancing?

Abidemi: I like those too, but usually you need a partner for those. So unless my husband wants to dance... but my husband doesn't really like dancing.

Todd: I understand. I'm the same. I can relate.



Grammar

Can / Cannot

Point 1: We use **can** to show abilities.

1. I can play tennis.
2. She can speak Italian.
3. They can build a computer.
4. This dictionary can hold one million words.

Point 2: The negative form of can has three spellings: **can not**, **cannot** and **can't**.

1. I can't go tonight.
2. She cannot speak German.
3. I can not get an Internet connection.
4. My car cannot go very fast.

Point 3: The adverb **well** is used to show a high ability at doing something.

1. Can you speak Japanese well?
2. I cannot speak it very well. I can speak it just a little.
3. What can you do well?
4. I can cook fairly well.

Point 4: The phrase **be good at** means you can do something well.

1. Are you good at sports?
2. Yes, I am pretty good at sports.
3. Are you good at computers?
4. No, I am not good at computers at all.