



## 5A can / can't

We use *can* for ability.

No sé pintar.

= I can't paint. NOT ~~I don't know to paint.~~

¿Sabes bailar?

= Can you dance? NOT ~~Do you know to dance?~~

We use *can* for possibility.

¿Puedes acabarlo para mañana?

= Can you finish it for tomorrow?

¿Lo ves?

= Can you see it? NOT ~~Do you see it?~~

We use *can* for permission.

Puedes practicar aquí.

= You can practise here.

No puedes fumar en los espacios públicos.

= You can't smoke in public spaces.

¿Puedo traer a un amigo?

= Can I bring a friend?

Don't use *to* after *can*.

Sé contar en inglés.

= I can count in English. NOT ~~I can to count in English.~~

¿Sabes escribir a máquina?

= Can you type? NOT ~~Can you to type?~~

¿Nos puede sacar una foto?

= Can you take a photo of us? NOT ~~Can you to take a photo of us?~~

Remember that with *can* we don't use the third-person -s or *do / does / don't*.

¿Puedes hacerlo?

= Can you do it? NOT ~~Do you can do it?~~

Ella puede venir.

= She can come. NOT ~~She cans come.~~

In some common expressions we use *can* in English but not *poder* in Spanish.

¿Me oyes?

= Can you hear me?

No veo.

= I can't see.



### PRONUNCIATION

Be careful which word you stress when you use *can* or *can't*.

Can you *sing*?

I can *sing*.

I *can't sing*.

Be careful with the pronunciation of the letter 'a' in *can* and *can't*.

Can /kæn/ you swim?

I can /kən/ swim.

I can't /kənt/ swim.





## 5B present continuous

Remember to use *be* in the present continuous.

Estamos comiendo.

= We are eating. NOT ~~We eating.~~

No están escuchando.

= They're not listening. NOT ~~They not listening.~~

Remember the word order in questions in the present continuous.

¿Qué están haciendo esos chicos? = What are those boys doing? NOT ~~What are doing those boys?~~

Remember to use the present continuous for actions that are happening now / at the moment

¿Viene el autobús?

= Is the bus coming? NOT ~~Is coming the bus?~~

¿Qué haces?

= What are you doing?

## 5C present simple or present continuous?

When Spanish might use the present simple instead of the present continuous, English often uses the present continuous, e.g. for things happening *now*.



¿Llueve? / ¿Está lloviendo? =  
Is it raining? NOT ~~It rains?~~  
or ~~Does it rain?~~

A Hola. ¿A dónde vas?

Hi. Where are you going?

B Voy al cine.

I'm going to the cinema.

A Con quién vas?

Who are you going with?

B Ah! Es un secreto.

Ah! That's a secret.



Ese hombre lleva un pendiente.  
= That man's wearing an earring. NOT  
~~That man wears an earring.~~

The same verb can have different meanings in the present simple and present continuous.

¿Qué haces?

= What do you do? (=What's your job?)

Soy médico/a.

= I'm a doctor.

¿Qué haces?

= What are you doing?

Estoy limpiando la cocina.

= I'm cleaning the kitchen.

