



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 /kɑːnt/ 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?

B Voy al cine.

A Con quién vas?

B Ah! Es un secreto.

Hi. Where are you going?

I'm going to the cinema.

Who are you going with?

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.