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Los modales (1):
poder (can, can't, could, couldn't)

En español utilizamos el verbo PODER seguido de otro verbo para hablar de la capacidad de hacer ciertas cosas. En inglés, utilizamos **can/can't** para el presente y **could/couldn't** para el pasado.

Presente

AFIRMATIVA	I/You/He/She/It/We/You/They can see (<i>puedo, puedes ... ver</i>)
NEGATIVA	I/You/He/She/It/We/You/They cannot see (<i>no puedo, no puedes ... ver</i>)
CONTRACCIÓN	I/You/He/She/It/We/You/They can't see (<i>no puedo, no puedes ... ver</i>)
INTERROGATIVA	Can I/you/he/she/it/we/you/they see? (<i>¿puedo, puedes ... ver?</i>)

Pasado

AFIRMATIVA	I/You/He/She/It/We/You/They could run very fast. (<i>Podía correr muy rápido/rápidamente.</i>)
NEGATIVA	I/You/He/She/It/We/You/They could not run very fast. (<i>No podía correr muy rápido/rápidamente.</i>)
CONTRACCIÓN	I/You/He/She/It/We/You/They couldn't run very fast. (<i>No podía correr muy rápidamente.</i>)
INTERROGATIVA	Could I/you/he/she/it/we/you/they run very fast? (<i>¿Podía correr muy rápido/rápidamente?</i>)

Estos verbos van seguidos de infinitivo SIN **to**, y expresan:

Lo que se puede hacer en un momento concreto. (<i>poder hacer algo</i>)	I can see the moon. (<i>Puedo ver la luna.</i>) I could see the moon. (<i>Podía ver la luna.</i>) NO I can to see the moon.
Nuestras habilidades o capacidades. (<i>poder hacer algo, saber hacer algo</i>)	He can run 100 metres in 12 seconds. (<i>No puede correr 100 metros en 12 segundos.</i>) I couldn't speak English when I was little. (<i>Cuando era pequeña no sabía hablar inglés.</i>) NO: I couldn't to speak English ...

Fíjate que algunas veces traducimos estos verbos al español como *saber*:

I can speak English (Sé hablar inglés.) NO: *I know (to speak) English.*

Ejercicios

A Haz preguntas y respuestas sobre los dibujos, utilizando **can** y **can't**.



play tennis



play the violin

A: *Can she play tennis*

B: Yes, *she can.*

A: *Can she play the violin*

B: No, *She can't.*

She can play tennis,

but *she can't play the violin.*



A: the hills?
 B: Yes,
 A: the sea?
 B: No,
 but
 A:?
 B: No,
 A:?
 B: Yes,
 but
 A:?
 B: Yes,
 A:?
 B: No,
 but

B Haz frases sobre la fabulosa familia Plum utilizando **could**.

- 0 (Mr Plum/speak/10 languages when he/be/20)
 Mr Plum could speak 10 languages when he was 20.
- 1 (Simon Plum/drink/10 litres of orange juice a day when he/be/5)

- 2 (Mrs Plum/swim/10 kilometres when she/be/12)

- 3 (Grandmother Plum/dance/all evening when she/be/60)

- 4 (Joan Plum/ride/a bike when she/be/2)

C Completa las frases con **can, can't, couldn't** y los verbos entre paréntesis.

- 0 You don't have to shout. I can hear (hear) you very well.
- 0 I couldn't watch (watch) that programme last night because I had to go out.
- 1 He (play) last week because he was injured.
- 2 He eats in restaurants all the time because he (cook).
- 3 I (give) you a lift in my car because it isn't working at the moment.
- 4 I didn't have a good seat in the theatre, so I (see) the stage very well.
- 5 John doesn't need a calculator. He (do) very difficult sums in his head.