

## Free English Grammar \* Gramática Inglesa Gratis

## can - could - to be able to

I can = yo puedo; yo sé (hacer algo)

Present Simple = presente simple

I	can	= yo puedo	yo sé (hacer algo)
you	can	= tú puedes	tú sabes
he	can	= él puede	él sabe, etc.
we	can		
you	can		
they	can		

## Forma Interrogativa

can	I ?
can	you ?
can	he ?
can	we ?
can	you ?
can	they ?

## Forma Negativa

I	cannot
you	cannot
he	cannot
we	cannot
you	cannot
they	cannot

## Forma Contracta

I	can't
you	can't
he	can't
we	can't
you	can't
they	can't

## Observa

1. A la 3ª persona del singular no se le añade "s".

He can speak French.

2. En la forma interrogativa "can" precede el sujeto.

Can he speak French?

3. A la forma negativa se le añade "not".

He cannot speak German.

4. "Can" va seguido de infinitivo sin "to".

We can go to the cinema. (We can ~~to~~go...) ¡Error!

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1. I can = yo puedo

- What can we do this evening? Where can we go?
- We can go to the cinema.
- No, we can't. It is too hot. We can go to the public garden.

2. I can = yo sé (hacer algo)

- Can Tom speak English?
- Yes, he can. English is his language.
- Can he speak Chinese?
- No, he cannot. Chinese is a very difficult language.

*Can* tiene solamente dos tiempos: el **Present Simple** y el **Past Simple**.  
Para los demás tiempos se usa "**to be able**" = (ser capaz de).

## Present Simple

I can = yo puedo;  
yo sé (hacer algo)

you can

he can

we can

you can

they can

## Past Simple

I could = yo pude; yo podía  
yo supe; yo sabía

you could

he could

we could

you could

they could

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## Como se traduce PODER

Para el "present" y el "past simple" se usan respectivamente "can" y "could". -  
Para los demás tiempos se usa el verbo "to be able to".

**Present Simple** = presente simple

**can** = puedo, sé (hacer una cosa)

- > I **can** play tennis very well.  
y también  
I **am able** to play tennis very well.

**Past Simple** = pasado simple (imperfecto-indefinido)

**could** = podía, pude - sabía, supe (hacer una cosa)

- > When I was younger I **could** climb tall trees.  
y también  
When I was younger I **was able to** climb tall trees.

**Nota**

Generalmente, "can" y "could" son intercambiables con "I am able to" y "I was able to", pero "can" y "could" son más comunes.

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**Infinitive** = *infinitivo*

**to be able to** = *poder*

- > **To be able to** speak English fluently, you need to practice speaking and listening every day.

**Future** = *futuro*

**I will be able** = *podré, sabré (hacer una cosa)*

- > If it doesn't rain tomorrow I **will be able** to work in my garden.  
~~will can~~ no existe

**Conditional** = *condicional*

**I would be able** = *podría, sabría (hacer una cosa)*

- > If I won the lottery, I **would be able to** visit the world.  
y también  
If I won a lottery ticket I **could** visit the world.

**Present Perfect** = *pretérito perfecto*

**I have been able** = *he podido, he sabido (hacer una cosa)*

- > I **have been able** to go to college, thanks to my parents' sacrifices.

**Past Perfect** = *pluscuamperfecto*

**I had been able** = *había podido, había sabido (hacer una cosa)*

- > Mum **had been able to** prepare a delicious dinner, before we got home.

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## Could

## Nota

"Could" corresponde a varios tiempos de los verbos "poder" y "saber hacer algo".

## 1. Imperfecto

When my son was only 7, he **could** already speak three languages: English, Spanish and Italian. ...*sabía*...

## 2. Pretérito indefinido

Yesterday I studied for 8 hours, but I **couldn't** finish my project. ...*no pude*

## 3. Condicional Presente

If you studied more, you **could** speak English fluently by the end of the year. ...*podrías*...

## 4. Imperfecto del Subjuntivo

If I **could** take away the pain and put a smile on your face  
Baby I would, baby I would... ...*si pudiera*...

A song by Justin Bieber

## Diferencia entre "could" y "was able"

- > Last year I made so much money that I **could** buy a Ferrari.  
(*Podía comprarla, pero no lo hice.*)
- > Last year I made so much money that I **was able** to buy a Ferrari.  
(*Podía comprarla, y lo hice.*)