

Free English Grammar * Gramática Inglesa Gratis

can - may

1. **can** *saber (hacer algo)*

"Can" se usa para expresar "capacidad" (ser capaz de hacer algo.)

- > Susan is a polyglot, she **can** speak several languages.
David **can** play tennis and basketball.

2. **can** *poder*

- > Robert is very strong, he **can** lift 300 pounds.
- 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.
- <<<☺>>>
- I'm very hungry. What **can** I eat?
 - You **can** eat a sandwich and an orange.
 - I'm thirsty too. What **can** I drink?
 - You **can** drink a beer or a glass of mineral water.

3. **can**

"Can" se usa también para pedir permiso.

- Dad, **can** I go out to play football with my friends?
- Of course you **can**, but you must finish your homework before you go.

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1. may

"May" se usa para pedir permiso en *situaciones formales*.

- **May** I open the window, please? It is very hot in here.
- **May** I use your mobile phone, please? Mine doesn't work.
- **May** I come in?

2. may

"May" se usa cuando *no estamos seguros de algo*.

There are many black clouds in the sky, it **may** rain soon.

This summer I **may** work as waiter in a restaurant. I want to buy a scooter.

Next winter I **may** go to a ski resort. I want to learn to ski.

Nota

Muchas personas piensan que usar "can" para pedir permiso no es correcto.

*El uso de "can" en un *contexto informal* es correcto.*

*En *situaciones formales* es mejor usar "may".*