

Can, could y be able to

- **Can** expresa la capacidad para hacer algo, una posibilidad, y también se usa para pedir permiso. Pero no se utiliza para expresar probabilidad. (Ver *May* y *might*)

Afirmativa

I can cook
You can cook
He/she/it can cook

We can cook
You can cook
They can cook

Negación

forma completa

I cannot cook
you cannot cook
he/she/it cannot cook

we cannot cook
you cannot cook
they cannot cook

forma contraída

I can't cook
you can't cook
he/she/it can't cook

we can't cook
you can't cook
they can't cook

Interrogación

respuesta breve +

respuesta breve -

Can I cook?
Can you cook?
Can he / she / it cook?

Yes, I can
Yes, you can
Yes, he / she / it can

No, I can't
No, you can't
No, he / she / it can't

Can we cook?
Can you cook?
Can they cook?

Yes, we can
Yes, you can
Yes, they can

No, we can't
No, you can't
No, they can't

- **Could** es la forma de pasado de can.

Afirmativa

I could cook
You could cook
He/she/it could cook

We could cook
You could cook
They could cook

Negación

forma completa

I could not cook
you could not cook
he/she/it could not cook

we could not cook
you could not cook
they could not cook

forma contraída

I couldn't cook
you couldn't cook
he/she/it couldn't cook

we couldn't cook
you couldn't cook
they couldn't cook

Interrogación

respuesta breve +

respuesta breve -

Could I cook?
Could you cook?
Could he / she / it cook?

Yes, I could
Yes, you could
Yes, he / she / it could

No, I couldn't
No, you couldn't
No, he / she / it couldn't

Could we cook?
Could you cook?
Could they cook?

Yes, we could
Yes, you could
Yes, they could

No, we couldn't
No, you couldn't
No, they couldn't

Ejemplos:

- *When I was young I could run very fast, but now I can't*
- *I could walk when I was ten months old.*
- *Paul can't cook. His meals are terrible.*
- *I can drive, but Sarah can't.*

- **Be able to** tiene un significado similar a *can/could*, pero suele utilizarse para expresar la habilidad de hacer algo de cierta dificultad (en español equivale a "ser capaz de"):

*I **can** walk very fast*

*They **were able to** escape from the fire.*

*She **could** draw very well at 10.*

*When she was five, she **was able to** draw wonderful pictures.*

- También se utiliza en lugar de *can* en el futuro, ya que *can* no tiene una forma para ese tiempo:

*I **can/could** find that street ® I'll **be able to** find that street.*

- Otros casos en los que se utiliza *be able to*, y no *can*, es cuando tiene que ir seguido de un infinitivo con *to* o una forma en *-ing*, ya que *can/could* sólo puede ir seguido de un infinitivo sin *to*.

*We were very happy **to be able to** be there (no *We were very happy to can to be there**)*

*I **have to be able to** run the marathon (no *I have to can....**)*

Sujeto + verbo *to be* (en cualquier tiempo) + *to* + infinitivo