

Modal Auxiliaries: Can

Modal auxiliaries modify the mood of a verb. The verb *can* is used to express ability, willingness, permission, or possibility. The negative of *can* is *cannot* or the contraction *can't*.

Sample Sentence

I can take care of my dog.

Can you take care of my dog?

Can I take my dog for a walk?

Dogs can be great companions.

Can Expresses

ability

willingness

permission

possibility



DIRECTIONS: Identify what *can* is expressing in each sentence.

- _____ 1. I can't play an instrument.
- _____ 2. Can you come home with me?
- _____ 3. Flowers can bloom in February.
- _____ 4. I can make spaghetti sauce.
- _____ 5. A good meal can make you feel positive.
- _____ 6. I can help you with that.
- _____ 7. A team can do more than one person.
- _____ 8. Can I have a cookie?