

WEEK 7 – UNIT 8
NAVIGATE B1
PRE-INTERMEDIATE

- **ABILITY:**
can,
be able to
- **OBLIGATION,
NECESSITY
AND
PERMISSION:**
must
have to
can

EXAMPLE SENTENCES FROM THE INTRODUCTORY VIDEO

- Can your students speak English fluently? - Of course, they can. ... , they can describe objects, they can speak about their free time, and what else, they can tell life stories.
- I had to collect all the materials..., and then I also had to, you know, upload it onto Moodle... I couldn't do that.
- don't worry you'll be able to learn it.
- Actually, can I ask you a favour? May I? ... she can write it, ...
- Can you write it for her? – I think I can't because here it says it must be from the head of the department where she studies so I can't do that. She will have to ask at her department ...
- She says she can write very well...
- Simply you have to like the subject ...
- ... you have to know what you want to learn ...

ability

permission

obligation

necessity

ABILITY

can
be able to

- Can your students speak English fluently? - Of course, they can.
- they can describe objects
they can speak about their free time
they can tell life stories.
- I couldn't do that.
- don't worry you'll be able to learn it.
- She says she can write very well...

Source: Krantz, C., Norton, J. *Navigate B1 Pre-intermediate – Coursebook*. OUP: 2015. Unit 8 p. 76 ex. 4

GRAMMAR FOCUS ability (*can, be able to*)

- We use *can* and *be able to* to say that we have the ability to do something (we know how to do it).

- For ability in the 1 _____ we use *can* or *be able to* + infinitive.

Bilingual children can speak two languages.

The brain is able to repair itself.

Note: In the present, *can* is more common than *be able to*.

- For ability in the 2 _____ we use *will/might* + *be able to* + infinitive.

People will be able to search the internet just by thinking.

NOT ~~*In the future, scientists can understand the brain better.*~~

→ Grammar Reference page 148



ABILITY - PRACTICE

can
be able to

Source: Krantz, C., Norton, J. Navigate B1 Pre-intermediate – Coursebook. OUP: 2015. Unit 8 p. 77 ex. 6

6 Complete the sentences with *can*, *can't* and *be able to* and your own ideas. Then compare your sentences with a partner.

- 1 In my opinion, men can read maps better than women.
- 2 In general, women _____ better than men.
- 3 Scientists might _____ one day.
- 4 I won't _____ this year.
- 5 I hope that _____ soon.

Computers and the human brain

Which is smarter: a computer or a human brain? Even today's simplest computers ¹ _____ solve maths and other problems much faster than humans. However, they ² _____ use imagination or come up with new ideas. But what about the future – will computers ever ³ _____ think creatively, like humans? Will they ever ⁴ _____ know what salt tastes like or what pain feels like? Some scientists doubt it. They say that even a hundred years from now, computers ⁵ _____ do this. Others say that science is full of surprises so we ⁶ _____ predict now what will happen in the distant future.

Meanwhile, neuroscientists are using computers to help them understand the human brain better. In a new \$1.6 billion project, the Human Brain Project, scientists from several countries will work together to create the world's first computer model of the human brain. The 'computer brain' ⁷ _____ operate 1,000 times faster than today's computers, and scientists ⁸ _____ 'fly around' inside it and learn more about how the brain works. They also hope they ⁹ _____ discover more about brain illnesses, such as Alzheimer's. Scientists might even ¹⁰ _____ learn more about where our thoughts and emotions come from.

ABILITY - SUMMARY

can

be able to

Source: Krantz, C., Norton, J. Navigate B1 Pre-intermediate – Coursebook. OUP: 2015. Unit 8 p. 148

1

GR8.1)))

- 1 The human brain **can think** creatively.
- 2 Computers **aren't able to feel** emotions.
- 3 **Can you remember** her name? No, I **can't**.
- 4 Is he **able to take** part in an experiment? Yes, he **is**.

We use *can* and *be able to* to say that something is or isn't possible or to talk about the ability of someone or something to do something (to know how to do it or to be capable of doing it).

- For ability and possibility in the present we use *can* or *be able to* + infinitive. Only *be* changes (*am, is, are*).
- When we talk about the present, *can* is more common than *be able to*.

He **can** speak many languages.

Young people **are able to** learn quickly.

- We don't use *can* for predictions about ability or possibility in the future. We use *will/won't* or *might* with *be able to* + infinitive.

2

GR8.1))) (continued)

She **might not be able to remember** our number.

I **won't be able to pass** this exam.

We **will be able to talk** to robots in the future.

- We normally use *can* if we are deciding (or have decided) about our ability in the future.

I'm free tomorrow so I **can** do the test then.

We don't use *can* as an infinitive. We use *be able to*:

I'd like to **be able to** understand my wife's thoughts.

~~NOT I'd like can understand my wife's thoughts.~~

OBLIGATION, NECESSITY, PERMISSION

must, have to, can

Source: Krantz, C., Norton, J. *Navigate B1 Pre-intermediate – Coursebook*. OUP: 2015. Unit 8 p. 79 ex. 7

- I had to collect all the materials..., and then I also had to, you know, upload it onto Moodle...
I Actually, can I ask you a favour?
- May I? Can you write it for her? – I think I can't because here it says it must be from the head of the department where she studies so I can't do that. She will have to ask at her department ...
- Simply you have to like the subject ...
- ... you have to know what you want to learn ...

GRAMMAR FOCUS obligation, necessity and permission (*must, have to, can*)

- 1 We use *must* or *have to* to talk about things that are necessary.
All teachers must have a Master's degree.
- 2 We use *don't have to* to talk about things that are not necessary.
Children don't have to go to school until they are 7.
- 3 We use *can* to say it is OK to do something: it is allowed.
Students can call teachers by their first names.
- 4 We use *can't* or *mustn't* when we mean 'Don't do this'.
Teachers can't give more than half an hour's homework a day.

→ Grammar Reference page 149

OBLIGATION, NECESSITY, PERMISSION - PRACTICE

must, have to, can

Source: Krantz, C., Norton, J. Navigate B1 Pre-intermediate – Coursebook. OUP: 2015. Unit 8 p. 79 ex. 8a

8a Choose the correct option to complete the facts about education systems around the world.

- 1 In many traditional Japanese schools, pupils *can / must* clean their school at the end of the day.
- 2 Students in England *can't / have to* leave school until they are sixteen.
- 3 In Argentina, students *don't have to / mustn't* pay to go to university. It's free.
- 4 In Sweden, all eleven-year-old children *can / must be able* to swim 200 metres.
- 5 In Hong Kong, there are often more than forty students in a class so teachers often *can / have to* use microphones.

OBLIGATION, NECESSITY, PERMISSION - SUMMARY

must, have to, can

1 *Must* and *have to*

GR8.2)))

- 1 Teachers **must** be qualified.
- 2 He **mustn't** be late.
- 3 I **have to** study tonight.
- 4 **Do you have to** get up early tomorrow?
- 5 He **doesn't have to** fill in a form.

We use *must* or *have to* with the infinitive when we talk about rules (obligation) and things that are necessary.

Teachers **must** be qualified. I **have to** study tonight.

- We use *must* to give instructions or orders, especially in writing.
Students **must** arrive before 9 a.m.

- We often use *must* when we talk about the feelings or wishes of the speaker.

I **must** thank the teacher for her help. (I really want to thank the teacher.)

He **must** take a holiday. (I think he needs to take a holiday.)

We **mustn't** be late. (It will be bad if we are late.)

- We often use *have to* when we talk about a rule or an order.
We **have to** do homework every night. (The teachers give us homework.)

They **have to** play sport. (That's the rule at their school.)

- It is more common to use *have to* in questions.

Do you have to leave?

- We use *don't have to* when we talk about things that are not necessary.

Students **don't have to** wear a uniform at college.

Source: Krantz, C., Norton, J. *Navigate B1 Pre-intermediate – Coursebook*. OUP: 2015. Unit 8 p. 149

2 *Can*

GR8.2))) (continued)

- 1 You **can** leave your books here, if you like.
- 2 A **Can** they wear their own clothes at school?
B No, they **can't**.
- 3 You **can't** enter this room, it's for staff only.
- 4 You **mustn't** tell anyone about this.

We use *can* to talk about permission.

- We use *can* to ask for permission and to say that something is permitted (it is OK to do it, it is allowed). We also use it to ask about what is allowed for other people.

Can we work outside today? Yes, you **can**/No, you **can't**.

They **can** wear their own clothes after school.

You **can** give me your homework tomorrow, if you like.

Can they use their mobile phones at school?

- We use *can't* or *mustn't* to say that something is not permitted (it is not OK to do it, it is not allowed) or 'Don't do this'.

We **can't** take more than an hour for lunch.

You **mustn't** forget to write your essay.