

11 Reference

can/can't

We use *can* to say that something is possible or to give permission.

Hotel guests can use the health club.

We use *can't* to say that something isn't possible or isn't allowed. We often use *can't* to explain rules.

You can't drive through a red traffic light.

We use *can* to ask about rules or ask for permission.

Can we take photographs in the museum?

Excuse me. Can I use your telephone?

have to/don't have to

	I/You/We/They	He/She/It
+	have to	has to
-	don't have to	doesn't have to
?	Do ... have to?	Does ... have to?

We use *have to* to say that something is necessary. We use it to explain rules.

In Britain you have to drive on the left.

My brother has to do military service.

We use *don't have to* to say that something isn't necessary.

It's informal – you don't have to wear smart clothes.

She's a member of the club so she doesn't have to pay.

Note the difference between *can't* and *don't have to*.

You don't have to wear a suit. (It isn't necessary, but you can wear one if you want to.)

You can't wear jeans here. (It isn't allowed.)

We can use *have to* to ask about rules.

Do I have to get a visa?

Wh- questions

The common *wh-* question words in English are *what*, *who*, *when*, *where*, *how*, *which*, *whose* and *why*.

We form a lot of questions with *How* + adjective/adverb: *how much*, *how many*, *how long*, *how tall*.

We usually answer these questions with a number, price, quantity, etc.

How much was your car? It was 3,000 euros.

Note the answers to *How long/tall/heavy/wide*, etc.

How tall are you? I'm 1.8 metres tall.

How high is Mount Everest? It's about 8,850 metres high.

In *wh-* questions, the verb *to be* and modal verbs (e.g. *can*) come after the question word but before the subject.

Where is your new apartment?

Who can you see?

In all tenses the auxiliary verb usually comes before the subject.

When is Tim coming home?

Who did you see at the party?

The imperative

We use imperatives to give instructions to people. The positive imperative is the infinitive of the verb, without *to*:

Stand up!

Come here, please.

Leave the shopping on the kitchen table.

The negative imperative is *Don't* + infinitive without *to*:

Don't do that!

Don't tell Jake that I'm here.

Don't arrive before nine o'clock.

We don't often use a subject pronoun with the imperative because it can sound quite rude:

You come here!

It is incorrect to use a subject pronoun with a negative imperative:

You don't do that!

Key vocabulary

Education

School subjects

biology chemistry economics English
geography history languages law literature
mathematics (maths) physics politics science
sport

Institutions

language school primary school/elementary school
secondary school/high school
(teacher training) college university

Types of learning

distance learning evening classes full-time
part-time training

People

lecturer student trainee trainer tutor

Driving

(buy) petrol driving licence driving test give way
overtake park traffic lights

Digital technology

academic course download forum
interactive whiteboard
learning management system (LMS) online
podcast post professional well-qualified wiki



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