can

English A1 · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
ability /əˈbɪləti/	Swimming is an **ability**.
permission /pəˈmɪʃn/	Ask for **permission**: “Can I go out?” “Can I go out?”
requests /rɪˈkwests/	“Can you help me?” is one of many **requests**. “Can you help me?”
huì (can, skill) /ˈhjuːi/	Chinese **huì (can, skill)** is “can”: I can swim. “can” I can swim
kěyǐ (may, can)	Chinese **kěyǐ (may, can)** is “can” or “may”: Can I sit here? “can” “may”
néng (able) /neŋ/	Chinese **néng (able)** is “can”: I can come tomorrow. “can” I can come tomorrow
I can swim (wǒ huì...) /aɪ kæn swɪm/	**I can swim (wǒ huì...)**.
Can I go now? (wǒ kěyǐ...) /kæn aɪ gəʊ naʊ/	“**Can I go now? (wǒ kěyǐ...)**” “Yes, you can.” “ ”“ ”
polite /pəˈlaɪt/	“Please” is **polite**. “Please”
formal /ˈfɔːml/	“Good morning, Mr Lee” is **formal**. “Good morning, Mr Lee”
huì shuō (can speak)	Chinese **huì shuō (can speak)** is “can speak”: I can speak English. “can speak”
It will rain tomorrow (míngtiān huì...)	**It will rain tomorrow (míngtiān huì...)**.
triangle /ˈtraɪæŋgl/	She plays the **triangle**.

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register /ˈredʒɪstə/	Say “Hello” to a teacher and “Hi” to a friend: this is a change of **register**. “Hello” “Hi”

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