

# *Expressing Ability/Inability*

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# UNIT

# 4

## *Objectives*



On Completion of this unit you will be able to –

- express ability and inability by using 'can' and 'cannot (can't)'
- substitute 'am/is/are + able to' with 'can' and 'am/is/are + unable to' with 'can't'
- make questions with 'can' and 'can't'

## *Overview*

**LESSON 1 : Moni**

**LESSON 2 : Mukta**

**LESSON 3 : Heera**

**LESSON 4 : Revision and Test**

**ANSWER KEY**

# Moni

# LESSON

# 1



*Look at the picture and try to answer these questions orally.*

- 1 Who is this girl?
- 2 Where is she going?
- 3 How is she going there?



## B

*Read Moni's Story.*



Moni




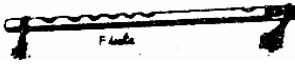

I'm Moni. I'm a school girl. I'm a student in class 6. My school is a long way from home, about 2 kilometers. I go to school on foot. I can walk a long way and I don't get tired. I can do a lot more things.

I can skip with a rope for twenty minutes without a break. I can draw beautiful pictures, but I can't paint them. My sister, Mukta can. So she paints all my pictures. I can sing and my brother, Heera can play the 'tabla'. He can play the flute too, but he can't play the sitar. My father can, but he can't find time for it. He's a busy man. My mother can cook well, but she can't sing like me. We're a happy family, and we all love music.

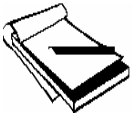
## C



**Read and note.**

I'm	:	I am	
don't	:	do not	
can't	:	cannot	
he's	:	he is	
we're	:	we are	
on foot	:	walking	
I can do a lot more things	:	I can do many things	
rope	:	skipping rope	
without a break	:	without stopping	
tabla	:	a musical instrument used for keeping rhythm,	
		তবলা	
flute	:	বাঁশি	
sitar	:	a musical instrument with strings	
play	:	বাজান eg I can play the guitar	
find time	:	get/manage time	

## D



**True or false? If false, give the correct information.**

- 1 Moni's school is 5 kilometers from home.
- 2 She can walk a long distance without getting tired.
- 3 She can draw and paint beautiful pictures.
- 4 Mukta can paint pictures.
- 5 Heera can play the flute and the sitar.
- 6 Her mother cannot sing.

## E



**Read B carefully and answer the questions first orally and then in writing.**

- 1 How long can Moni skip with a rope?
- 2 What is Moni's sister's name?
- 3 How does she help Moni?
- 4 What can Moni's father play?
- 5 What can't Moni's mother do?



**Read these sentences carefully.**

1 Moni can skip with a rope for twenty minutes.	1 She can't paint pictures.
2 Arif can ride a bicycle.	2 He can't drive a car.
3 Zareen can write a letter.	3 She can't post it.
4 Zeeshan can read English.	4 He can't read Arabic.

**Now read these questions and answers :**

Questions	Answers
1 Can he speak Arabic?	1 Yes, he can/No, he can't.
2 Can she write a letter?	2 Yes, she can/No, she can't.
3 Can they play tennis?	3 Yes, they can/No, they can't.

**Notice the use of 'can' at the beginning of a question. Answers generally end with 'can' or 'can't'.**



**Read B again and make a list of things the following people can do, and can't do :**

Name	can do	can't do
Moni	can walk a long way	can't paint pictures
Mukta		
Heera		
Father		
Mother		



**Make questions for the following answers :**

- 1 Mina can read the newspaper.  
Question : Can Mina read the newspaper?
- 2 Mina can make her own dress.
- 3 He can drive a long way.
- 4 They can jump over the wall.
- 5 She can type very fast.



**Now make a list of things you can do and things you can't do.**

**Example :**

- 1 I can make my bed, but I can't make a cup of tea.
- 2





*Look at the picture and answer these questions orally.*

- 1 What is the girl doing?
- 2 The girl has read something very interesting in the newspaper. What do you think it is?



**B**



*Read Mukta's story in section C and answer these questions with a tick mark (✓).*

- 1 Mukta was reading
  - a) the sports news.
  - b) the political news.
  - c) an announcement in the newspaper.
- 2 Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has organised a
  - a) painting competition.
  - b) magic competition.
  - c) musical competition.
- 3 'Juniors' means between the age of
  - a) 11 and 13.
  - b) 13 and 19.
  - c) 14 and 20.

- 4 Mukta's teacher thinks her painting is
- good.
  - fair.
  - satisfactory.
- 5 Mukta entered the competition and won the
- consolation prize.
  - first prize.
  - second prize.



**C**

*Read Mukta's story.*

**MUKTA**

Mukta was reading an announcement in the newspaper. It says :

**PAINTING COMPETITION FOR JUNIORS**

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has organised a painting competition for juniors, between the age of 13 and 19 to celebrate the Bengali new century - 1400. The competition will be held on May 3, 1994 at the Academy premises at 10 am.

If you can draw and paint, come and enter the competition.

Mukta jumped with excitement. She told her mother, "Mother, look here. There's a painting competition for juniors at the Shilpakala Academy. Can I go in for it?" Her mother replied with a question : "Can you draw pictures well enough for the competition?"

Mukta : Yes mother, I can draw and paint good pictures.

Mother : That's good. What sort of pictures can you draw?

Mukta : I can draw things like a village hat, a school at break, city life, a zoo, etc.

Mother : But you haven't shown me any of your pictures. Can you get some for me?

Mukta : Yes, I can. (After a few minutes she comes back with some of her pictures.) Here they are.

Mother : Hmm! That's good! . . . Ah, this is beautiful!

Mukta : My teacher says my painting is very good. So, can I enter the competition, please?

Mother : Yes, you can. Good luck!

Mukta : Thanks, mum.

Mukta joined the competition and won first prize.



**Read and note.**

announcement	:	informing others about a certain decision; ঘোষণা
celebrate	:	to observe; পালন করা
premises	:	আঙিনা
good enough	:	quite good
sort of	:	kind of
hat	:	হাট। গ্রামাঞ্চলে সপ্তাহে এক/দুই দিন বসে।
school at break	:	school during lunch/tiffin period
good luck	:	when we say 'good luck' to someone, we hope that he/she will be successful.



**Answer the following questions first orally and then in writing.**

- 1 What was Mukta excited about?
- 2 Why did the Shilpakala Academy organise the painting competition?
- 3 When & where will the competition be held?
- 4 What sort of pictures can Mukta draw and paint?
- 5 What does Mukta's teacher say about her paintings?



**Read these sentences carefully. Notice how questions are made with can't.**

Statement : Zareen can write with a pen, but Zeeshan can't.

Question : Can't Zeeshan write with a pen?

Statement : Asif can ride a bicycle, but can't swim.

Question : Can't Asif swim?



**Now make questions from each of the following statements :**

- 1 Jamal can fly kites, but he can't make one.
- 2 Maneez can speak Arabic, but he can't speak English.
- 3 Seema can recite poems, but she can't write them.
- 4 Bats can see at night, but they can't see in the daylight.
- 5 Ayesha can cook curry, but she can't cook biriyani.
- 6 Birds can fly, but they can't swim.
- 7 Salam can play football, but he can't play chess.
- 8 Rahima can sew her own dress, but she can't knit a sweater.



**Now write ten sentences about yourself and your family following the pattern in section F.**



**A**

*Look at the picture and try to answer these questions orally.*

- 1 What is the boy on the stage doing?
- 2 What else do you think he can play?



**B**

*Read Heera's story.*

## HEERA

Heera is a student in class 9. He studies science and is good at it. He can make a lot of things with pieces of magnet, wire, wood and nails. Last year at the Science Fair he made a Burglar Alarm. It was meant to keep away burglars. It was cheap and very useful. Everybody liked it very much.

This year at the annual cultural competition at school he played the flute. Everybody enjoyed it and he won the first prize. His classmates congratulated him for his brilliant performance.

**Matin :** Congratulations, Heera. Your performance was excellent. How can you play the flute so well?

**Heera :** I've got a very good teacher. Also because I practise for at least an hour everyday.

**Samad :** Can you play any other instruments?

**Heera :** Yes, I can. I can play the 'tabla' very well, and the sitar a little bit.

**Samad :** I want to learn the flute. Can you help me? My uncle has brought me one from the village hat.

SSC Programme

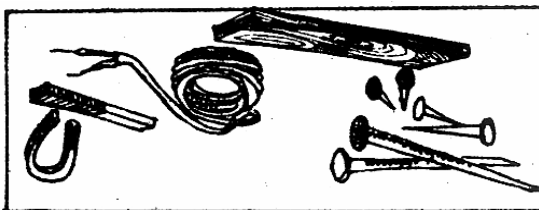
Heera : Yes, I can. Come and see me when you're free.

## C



**Read and note.**

magnet : চুম্বক  
 wire : তার  
 wood : কাঠ  
 nails : পেরেক



burglar alarm : an instrument with an alarm meant to inform people of a thief in the house.  
 cheap : not very expensive.  
 annual : yearly.  
 cultural : of the culture of a country, its songs, music, poetry, etc.  
 enjoyed it : got pleasure from it.  
 congratulated him : thanked him for his success.  
 excellent : very, very good.  
 instruments : musical instruments.

## D



**Read B again and write 5 correct statements about Heera from the table given below. The first one is done for you :**

Heera	can can't	play make sing	a lot of things the tabla very well a Burglar Alarm the sitar very well like Moni.
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- 1 Heera can make a lot of things.
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

## E



**Now read B again and answer the following questions first orally and then in writing.**

- 1 Which class is Heera in?
- 2 What is he good at?
- 3 What does he need to make different things for the Science Fair?
- 4 What happened at the annual cultural competition this year?
- 5 Why can he play the flute so well?
- 6 Where did Samad get the flute from?



**Read these sentences carefully.**

- 1 a Shimul **is able to** paint beautiful pictures.  
b Shimul **can** paint beautiful pictures.
- 2 a The horse **is able to** run fast.  
b The horse **can** run fast.
- 3 a Rahim **is unable to** speak.  
b Rahim **can't** speak.
- 4 a Ayesha **is unable to** do hard work.  
b Ayesha **can't** do hard work.

**In all these sentences we find two ways of saying the same things : is able to/can, and is unable to/can't.**



**Now rewrite these sentences using can/can't.**

- 1 Hanif is able to play cricket very well.
- 2 Seema is unable to prepare good Chinese dishes.
- 3 Rina is unable to carry such a big load.
- 4 Tariq is able to get a good job.
- 5 Nira is able to do all the washing.
- 6 Adeeb is unable to drive the car.
- 7 Rahat is unable to write stories.
- 8 The monkey is able to jump from one tree to another.



**Read the chart carefully and make ten true sentences about yourself using can/can't.**

1 write with both hands	2 draw picture	3 drive a car	4 ride a bicycle	5 sew a button on my dress/shirt
6 work with a computer	7 cut a pineapple	8 skip with a rope	9 cook chicken curry	10 walk a long way very easily

**Example :**

- 1 I can't write with both hands.
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....
- 7 .....
- 8 .....
- 9 .....
- 10 .....



**A**

Maneez is a little boy of 8. He is member of a circus. He can do a lot of things. But there are certain things he can't do.

*Now look at the pictures below and write sentences about the things Maneez can do, and the things he can't do.*

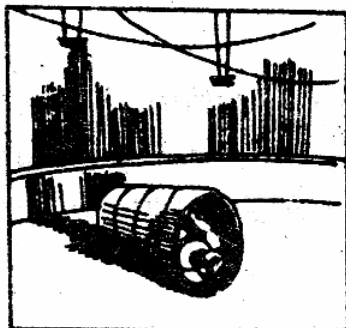
**can do**



1 swim for hours at a time

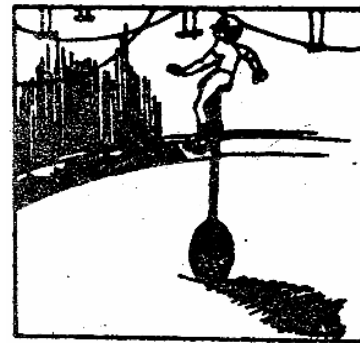


3 carry a ball on his head without using his hands



5 roll in a drum

**can't do**



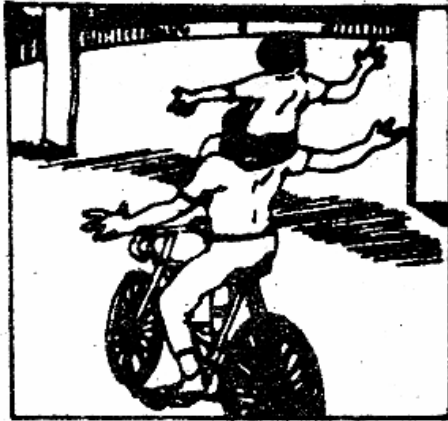
2 ride a monocyte



4 walk on a rope



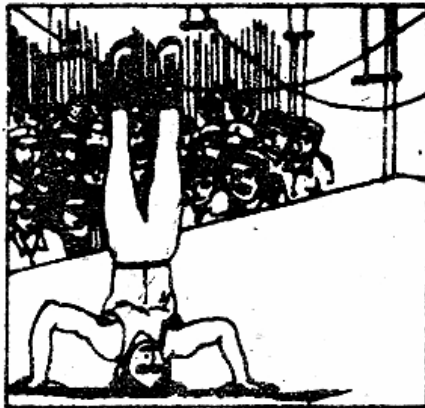
6 pass through a ring of fire.



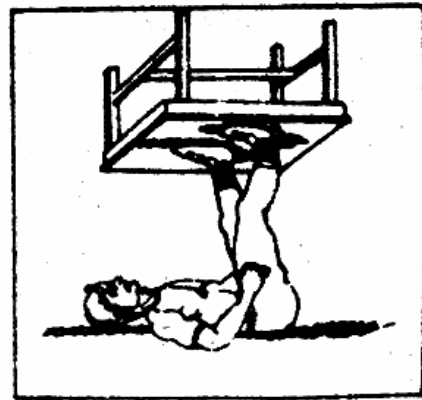
7 get on his father's shoulder while he is riding a bicycle



8 walk on a pair of stilts



9 stand on his head with his legs in the air



10 carry a table with his legs up



**B**

Look at the statements in section A about things Maneez can do, and things he can't do. Now make five questions with can and five with can't about Maneez.

Example :

can		can't			
1	Can Maneez swim for hours at a time?	1	Can't	Maneez	ride a monocyte?
2		2			
3		3			
4		4			
5		5			

**C**

Suppose you are a new student in a college. You want to know your friend better. Ask her/him six questions with can and six questions with can't.

**Example :**

- 1 Can you write poems ?
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

**D**

Rewrite the following sentences using can and can't instead of the phrases underlined.

- 1 Moni is able to skip for a long time.
- 2 Jamal is able to sing like TV singers.
- 3 The doctor is unable to understand the patient.
- 4 The patient is unable to express her feelings.
- 5 Shuman is able to use the camera.
- 6 Bangladesh is able to hold international games.
- 7 Sheila is unable to travel by bus.

**E**

Now write ten sentences about yourself mentioning the things you can do, and things you can't do.

**KEY** *LESSON : 1*

**A**

- 1 This is a school girl.
- 2 She is going to school.
- 3 She is going to school on foot.

**D**

- 1 False. About 2 kilometers.
- 2 True.
- 3 False. She can only draw pictures but she can't paint.
- 4 True.
- 5 False. He can play the tabla and the flute, but not the sitar.
- 6 True.

**E**

- 1 Moni can skip with a rope for twenty minutes without a break.
- 2 Mukta.
- 3 She paints all the pictures that Moni draws.
- 4 He can play the sitar.
- 5 She can't sing like Moni.

**G1**

Name	can do	can't do
Mukta	can paint pictures	can't sing.
Heera	can play the tabla and the flute	can't play the sitar.
Father	can play the sitar	can't find time to play the sitar regularly.
Mother	can cook well	can't sing like Moni.

**G2**

- 2 Can Mina make her own dress?
- 3 Can he drive a long way?
- 4 Can they jump over the wall?
- 5 Can she type very fast?

**KEY** *LESSON : 2*

**A**

- 1 The girl is talking to her mother in the bedroom with a newspaper in her hand.
- 2 The girl has read an advertisement in the newspaper about a painting competition which she could enter.

**B**

- 1 (c)    2 (a)    3 (b)    4 (a)    5 (b)

**ع**

- 1 Mukta was excited about the painting competition.
- 2 The Shilpakala Academy organised the competition to celebrate the Bengali new century- 1400.
- 3 The competition will be held at the Shilpakala Academy premises on May 3, 1994.
- 4 Mukta can draw and paint different types of pictures like a village hat, a school at break, city life, a zoo, etc.
- 5 Mukta's teacher says that her painting is very good.

**ع**

- 1 Can't Jamal make kites?
- 2 Can't Maneez speak English?
- 3 Can't Seema write poems?
- 4 Can't bats see in the daylight?
- 5 Can't Ayesha cook biriyani?
- 6 Can't birds swim?
- 7 Can't Salam play chess?
- 8 Can't Rahima knit a sweater?

**🔑 LESSON : 3****ا**

- 1 He is playing the flute.
- 2 He can perhaps play the tabla, mouth organ, harmonium, etc.

**ب**

- 2 Heera can make a Burglar Alarm.
- 3 Heera can't sing like Moni.
- 4 Heera can play the sitar very well.
- 5 Heera can't play the tabla very well.

**ع**

- 1 Heera is in class 9.
- 2 He is good at Science.
- 3 To make different things for the Science Fair he needs things like pieces of magnet, wire, wood and nails.
- 4 At the annual cultural competition this year Heera played the flute and won the first prize.
- 5 Heera can play the flute very well because he has a very good teacher to help him, and also because he practises for an hour everyday.
- 6 Samad's uncle brought him a flute from the village hat.

**س**

- 1 Hanif can play cricket very well.
- 2 Seema can't prepare good Chinese dishes.
- 3 Rina can't carry such a big load.
- 4 Tariq can get a good job.
- 5 Nira can do all the washing.

- 6 Adeeb can't drive the car.
- 7 Rahat can't write stories.
- 8 The monkey can jump from one tree to another.

**G**

*Write the answers and show them to your tutor.*

## LESSON : 4

**A**

- 1 Maneez can swim for hours at a time.
- 2 He can't ride a monocycle.
- 3 He can carry a ball on his head without using his hands.
- 4 He can't walk on a rope.
- 5 He can roll in a drum.
- 6 He can't pass through a ring of fire.
- 7 He can get on his father's shoulder while he is riding a bicycle.
- 8 He can't walk on a pair of stilts.
- 9 He can stand on his head with his legs in the air.
- 10 He can't carry a table with his legs up.

**B**

- 2 Can Maneez carry a ball on his head without using his hands? Can't he walk on a rope?
- 3 Can he roll in a drum? Can't he pass through a ring of fire?
- 4 Can he get on his father's shoulder while he is riding a bicycle? Can't he walk on a pair of stilts?
- 5 Can he stand on his head with his legs in the air? Can't he carry a table with his legs up?

**C**

**Some examples :**

- 1 Can you sing?
- 2 Can you dance?
- 3 Can you drive a car?
- 4 Can't you stay at home all by yourself?
- 5 Can't you give her some money?
- 6 Can't you buy a new watch?

**D**

- 1 Moni can skip for a long time.
- 2 Jamal can sing like TV singers.
- 3 The doctor can't understand the patient.
- 4 The patient can't express her feelings.
- 5 Shuman can use the camera.
- 6 Bangladesh can hold international games.
- 7 Sheila can't travel by bus.

**E**

*Write the sentences and show them to your tutor.*