Ability (can/could):
Can & Can't: Present Ability

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. She ___ speak three languages.
   a) could
   c) is able
   b) can
   d) cans

2. I ___ swim very well. I need lessons.
   a) don't can
   c) isn't able
   b) am not can
   d) can't

3. ___ you play the guitar?
   a) Can
   c) Are
   b) Do can
   d) Is

4. He ___ drive a car. He doesn't have a licence.
   a) don't
   c) can't
   b) not can
   d) doesn't can

5. My grandmother ___ cook really well.
   a) cans
   c) is can
   b) can
   d) do can

6. We ___ see the mountains from our window.
   a) can
   c) are can
   b) cans
   d) do can

7. ___ your brother ride a bike?
   a) Does
   c) Do
   b) Is
   d) Can

8. They ___ understand Japanese. It's too difficult for them.
   a) don't can
   c) can't
   b) not can
   d) aren't can

9. A: Can you sing? B: Yes, I ___.
   a) can
   c) am
   b) do
   d) sing

10. Birds ___ fly, but dogs ___.
    a) can, don't
    c) could, couldn't
    b) can, can't
    d) are, aren't

11. I ___ hear you. Please speak louder.
    a) don't
    c) not can
    b) am not
    d) can't

12. ___ she dance salsa? I'm looking for someone to teach me.
    a) Does   b) Is
    c) Can   d) Do

13. My baby sister ___ walk yet. She's only six months old.
    a) doesn't can   b) can't
    c) not can   d) isn't can

14. Tom ___ run very fast. He wins every race.
    a) can   b) cans
    c) is can   d) does can

15. A: Can they speak English? B: No, they ___.
    a) don't   b) aren't
    c) can't   d) doesn't

16. We ___ use our phones during the exam.
    a) don't can   b) not can
    c) doesn't   d) can't

17. My father ___ speak French and German.
    a) can   b) cans
    c) is can   d) does

18. ___ the children swim in this pool? I need to know if it's safe.
    a) Do   b) Are
    c) Can   d) Does

19. I ___ touch my toes easily. I'm very flexible.
    a) am   b) do
    c) could   d) can

20. She ___ read without her glasses. The text is too small.
    a) doesn't   b) can't
    c) isn't   d) don't

Answers

1. b) can
2. d) can't
3. a) Can
4. c) can't
5. b) can
6. a) can
7. d) Can
8. c) can't
9. a) can
10. b) can, can't
11. d) can't
12. c) Can
13. b) can't
14. a) can
15. c) can't
16. d) can't
17. a) can
18. c) Can
19. d) can
20. b) can't

Explanations

1. "can" (b)
Use 'can' + base verb to talk about present ability. There is no 's' form — 'cans' does not exist.

2. "can't" (d)
Use 'can't' (= cannot) to say you are not able to do something. 'Don't can' is not correct English.

3. "Can" (a)
To ask about ability, put 'Can' before the subject: Can + subject + base verb?

4. "can't" (c)
Use 'can't' for inability. The negative of 'can' is 'can't' or 'cannot', not 'not can' or 'doesn't can'.

5. "can" (b)
'Can' is a modal verb — it has the same form for all subjects. Never add 's': 'she can', not 'she cans'.

6. "can" (a)
Use 'can' + base verb to describe what is possible right now. 'Can' does not change for different subjects.

7. "Can" (d)
Use 'Can' to ask about ability. The structure is: Can + subject + base verb?

8. "can't" (c)
Use 'can't' to express inability. The negative form is always 'can't' (or 'cannot'), never 'don't can'.

9. "can" (a)
Short answers with 'can': Yes, I can. / No, I can't. Do not repeat the main verb in the short answer.

10. "can, can't" (b)
Use 'can' for ability and 'can't' for inability. This describes a general fact about what animals are able to do.

11. "can't" (d)
Use 'can't' with verbs of perception (hear, see, smell, taste, feel) to say something is not possible right now.

12. "Can" (c)
To ask about someone's ability, use 'Can' + subject + base verb? Not 'Does she can' or 'Is she can'.

13. "can't" (b)
'Can't' expresses present inability. We often use 'can't ... yet' to say someone hasn't developed an ability so far.

14. "can" (a)
Use 'can' to describe someone's ability. Modal verbs do not take 's' in the third person.

15. "can't" (c)
Short negative answer: No, + subject + can't. Use 'can't' to match the question with 'Can'.

16. "can't" (d)
'Can't' is also used to say something is not allowed or not possible in a given situation.

17. "can" (a)
Use 'can' + base verb for present ability. 'Can' never changes form — no 's', no 'ing', no 'ed'.

18. "Can" (c)

Use 'Can + subject + base verb?' to ask about ability or whether something is possible/allowed.

19. "can" (d)

Use 'can' for present ability. 'Could' refers to past ability, so it does not fit a present context.

20. "can't" (b)

Use 'can't' to say someone is unable to do something. 'Doesn't' would need a main verb with 'do' support, but 'can' is a modal.