

## 8.1 Ability (can, be able to)

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.*

- 1 Complete the sentences about ability or possibility in the future.
  - 1 They can't fix the TV today, but they will be able to fix it tomorrow. (definite)
  - 2 It's too dark to read the map now, but we \_\_\_\_\_ read it in the morning. (definite)
  - 3 I can't speak Polish now, but I \_\_\_\_\_ in the future. (possible)
  - 4 Stefan can take care of me now, but he \_\_\_\_\_ take care of me when I'm 90. (possible)
  - 5 We can't help you now, but we \_\_\_\_\_ later. (definite)
  - 6 I can remember the dates now, but I \_\_\_\_\_ remember them in the test. (possible)

- 2 Write sentences about present or future ability. Use *can* where possible.
  - 1 you / remember any good jokes ?  
Can you remember any good jokes?
  - 2 Lucy / not / pass the exam tomorrow  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 I / study and care for the children  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 Adriana / attend the event, unfortunately  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 listen carefully and you / understand everything  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 6 robots / have conversations with us one day ?  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 3 Complete the interview with a scientist, Dr Evans, about brain science. Use *can/can't* or *will/won't be able to*.

<b>Interviewer</b>	1 <u>Will scientists be able to</u> (scientists) understand how the human brain works one day?
<b>Dr Evans</b>	Well, we already know that our thoughts follow tiny paths in our brain. Scientists probably 2 _____ explore them all, but they 3 _____ understand some things already. For example, they know all our brains have different paths. We 4 _____ see paths in men's brains that are different in female brains. This means we 5 _____ predict people's decisions.
<b>Interviewer</b>	6 _____ (I) read other people's thoughts in the future, without talking?
<b>Dr Evans</b>	Well, a machine already exists that 7 _____ predict a simple decision 20 seconds before a person makes it. Also, it 8 _____ tell us the word a person is thinking of. But in the future I think it probably 9 _____ understand human thoughts in much detail.

## 8.2 obligation, necessity and permission (must, have to, can)

### 1 Must and have to

#### GR8.2 )))

- Teachers **must** be qualified.
- He **mustn't** be late.
- I **have to** study tonight.
- Do** you **have to** get up early tomorrow?
- 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.*

### 2 Can

#### GR8.2 ))) (continued)

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

- Complete the information about Montessori schools. Use *can*, *have to*, *don't have to* or *mustn't*.

- Children can learn anything they want: to put on clothes, to prepare food, etc.
- They \_\_\_\_\_ do any class tests, because they learn at different speeds.
- Children \_\_\_\_\_ learn to read or do maths when they are ready, not at a certain age.
- The teachers \_\_\_\_\_ shout or even speak angrily.
- Teachers \_\_\_\_\_ teach all the time because the children usually learn by themselves.
- Children \_\_\_\_\_ ask an adult for things because the cupboards are close to the floor.
- The students \_\_\_\_\_ study for a minimum of three hours in the morning, with no break.
- Children \_\_\_\_\_ have a timetable because they choose what they do and when.

- Complete the second sentence so it has a similar meaning to the first, using *can/can't*, *(don't) have to* or *must/mustn't*.

- Don't work too hard!  
You mustn't work too hard.
- Homework days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday.  
Students \_\_\_\_\_ do homework on Tuesday and Thursday.
- Always take off your coats in class, children.  
The children \_\_\_\_\_ take off their coats in class.
- It's necessary to have a degree before you can do a Bachelor's.  
Bachelors' students \_\_\_\_\_ have a degree.
- Older students are welcome at our university.  
Older students \_\_\_\_\_ come to our university.
- We do not accept PhD applications after June.  
You \_\_\_\_\_ apply for a PhD after June.

- Write the sentences and questions about obligation, necessity and permission.

- I / remember to give Mr Simons a card  
I must remember to give Mr Simons a card.
- you / go to the library - the book's online  
\_\_\_\_\_
- we / not / be late for the test today  
\_\_\_\_\_
- we all / have a holiday next week ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- students / attend three lectures a week  
\_\_\_\_\_
- students / study maths until they leave school ?  
\_\_\_\_\_