



## Can and could

1 Check these sentences from the audio excerpt in the **Let's listen!** section. Underline the modal verb(s) that indicate possibility.

- In the bathroom, for example, we can recycle shampoo bottles, toilet roll tubes and toothpaste boxes.
- In the bedroom, you can recycle magazines, cardboard tissue boxes and even aerosols.
- Back to the kitchen, we can recycle all sorts of cardboard packaging.

2 Modal verbs **can** and **could** indicate possibility (PO), but they're also used to express ability (AB) and permission (PE). Read the following sentences and identify their uses.

	PO	AB	PE
Olive can speak German and English.			
Can I open the window? It's hot in here.			
Tim could swim really fast before he hurt his shoulder.			
Could you lend me your pen for a minute?			
It can be very hot here in the summer.			
They could come by bus if their car is broken.			
Look at this traffic sign. The driver can't park here.			

### Affirmative

subject + can / could + verb (base form)

- Philip can help you compost your garbage.
- Patricia could recycle plastic in her school project.

### Negative

subject + can / could + not + verb (base form)

- Lucia can't reduce her shopping list.
- My grandpa couldn't take us to the recycling station yesterday.

### Interrogative

Can/Could + subject + verb (base form)?

- Can Mary reuse her cup of coffee?
- Could people recycle plastic in the 1970s?

Use modal verbs **can** or **could** to indicate possibility and to ask or express permission in the present.

To mention someone's ability (skills or aptness) in the **present** or the **future**, use **can**. When talking about abilities in the **past**, use **could**:

- Pat **couldn't** speak French very well when she first arrived in Paris, but now she **can** do it perfectly.



## activities

1 Choose the best alternative to complete the sentences.

- a) According to this sign you can't recycle cardboard...
- ( ) boxes.
  - ( ) food cartons.
  - ( ) cartons.



- b) According to this sign you can recycle plastic bottles only if they have...
- ( ) a cap.
  - ( ) a lid.
  - ( ) a neck.



2 Unscramble the sentences.

- a) can recycle - 45% of the garbage - my city
- \_\_\_\_\_

- b) a lot of organic waste - Meghan - when - could compost - she lived in a house
- \_\_\_\_\_

- c) his big brother's books - Joseph - reuse - could - ?
- \_\_\_\_\_

- d) Jemina - in her house - recycling habits - couldn't change
- \_\_\_\_\_

- e) Peter - can - his garbage bins - show me - ?
- \_\_\_\_\_

3 Think of creative things you can do with these used materials. Illustrate your work. You can draw or glue a picture. Carry out research about different possibilities. The first one is done for you. What can you do with...

a) a used plastic bottle?

A bird water feeder



© 2009, 2011, Logos

e) old newspapers?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) a glass bottle?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

f) an egg carton?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c) a cardboard box?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

g) plastic ice cream container?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d) a can of soda?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

h) cardboard tube?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Recycling around the world

1 Discuss with a partner the meaning of the words in the boxes and how they are related to one another.

dumped

environmentally

recycling

landfill

waste

2 Read this excerpt and fill it in with words from the previous activity. Then, discuss in pairs: Did you know that so little of the garbage we produce is recycled?

The world generates 2.01 billion tonnes of municipal solid \_\_\_\_\_ annually, with at least 33 percent of that — extremely conservatively — not managed in an \_\_\_\_\_ safe manner. [...]

Globally, most waste is currently \_\_\_\_\_ or disposed of in some form of \_\_\_\_\_ [...]. Open dumping accounts for about 31 percent of waste, 19 percent is recovered through \_\_\_\_\_ and composting, and 11 percent is incinerated for final disposal.

WHAT A WASTE 2.0. Available at: <[http://datatopics.worldbank.org/what-a-waste/trends\\_in\\_solid\\_waste\\_management.html](http://datatopics.worldbank.org/what-a-waste/trends_in_solid_waste_management.html)>. Accessed on: 18 Sept. 2019.

3 Read about the country that occupies the highest position on the OECD recycling rank. Can you reorder the sentences into a coherent paragraph?

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

### OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

- ( ) First of all, a public education initiative informed residents how to identify what is trash, compost, or recycling, so the bulk of the work is done by the individual household.
- ( ) The best waste recycler of OECD countries is Germany. Here, 68%, the vast majority, of municipal waste is either recycled or composted.
- ( ) How have they accomplished this?
- ( ) Residents are also required to pay more for higher use of packaging which has led to an overall reduction in use and increased participation in recycling and composting measures.

OECD RECYCLING STATISTICS. Available at: <<https://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/23/8/47812121.pdf>>. Accessed on: 23 Aug. 2019.

4 Go back to the texts in activities 2 and 3 and answer the questions.

a) How was the German population educated about recycling?

\_\_\_\_\_

b) What motivated German citizens to reduce packaging?

\_\_\_\_\_

c) How does Germany compare with the global average for recycling waste?

\_\_\_\_\_

5 Take a look at the OECD recycling rank, then answer the questions.

**MUNICIPAL WASTE: MATERIAL RECOVERY (RECYCLING + COMPOSTING)**

Germany	68%
Austria	59%
Belgium	54%
Netherlands	54%
Switzerland	53%
Italy	52%
Lithuania	49%
Luxembourg	48%



Source: OECD. Stat. Available at: <<https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=MUNW>>. Accessed on: 18 Sept. 2019.

a) Why do you think these countries succeeded in recycling?

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Which position do you think Brazil would have if it were in this ranking? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

6 Carry out research about the waste recycling programs in one of the countries in activity 5 and take notes here. Then, share with the class.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7 Read the sentences. Do you agree or disagree with them? Share with a partner.

- a) People are not worried about recycling where I live.
- b) We can recycle almost everything.
- c) It is difficult to find recycling trash cans near my house.
- d) In Brazil, people recycle a lot.
- e) Other countries are more worried about recycling than Brazil.
- f) We never recycle in our school.

	AGREE	DISAGREE
a)		
b)		
c)		
d)		
e)		
f)		

8 Read the following article and check if your ideas are similar to the ones in the text. What is the recycling situation in Brazil?

### Brazil produces more trash but doesn't make progress with recycling

Mara Gama  
Sep. 14, 2018 10:50AM

SÃO PAULO Brazilians are producing more waste and more towns are sending their trash to garbage dumps, but recycling has not made headway in the country. These are the findings of a new report called "Outlook of Solid Waste Management in Brazil".

In the course of one year, recycling barely moved the needle. In 2016, 1,692 towns in the country didn't have any kind of recycling initiative. In 2017, the number fell to 1,647. But in some parts, like the Central-West Region, for example, most towns – 55.2% of them – don't do any kind of recycling.

Carlos Silva Filho, director of Abrelpe (Brazilian Association of Solid Waste Companies), this stagnation is caused by lack of funding for municipalities and lack of enthusiasm in the general population. [...]



GAMA, Mara. Brazil produces more trash but doesn't make progress with recycling. Available at: <<https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/internacional/en/brazil/2018/09/brazil-produces-more-trash-but-doesnt-make-progress-with-recycling.shtml>>. Accessed on: 25 Aug. 2019.



9 Read the article again and complete the sentences with the missing information.

- a) The information is based on a \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) Many Brazilian towns get rid of their trash in garbage \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) The recycling problem in Brazil is due to lack of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- d) The data shows that the recycling issue almost didn't improve from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
- e) Many Brazilian cities don't have any kind of \_\_\_\_\_ program.

10 When you read a news article, it is very important to be sure the information is real and trustworthy. Go back to the article and check which details show the reader can trust the information. Discuss your ideas with a partner and take notes.

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11 Based on your previous discussion, choose which items you can find in the text.

- a) ( ) author's name
- b) ( ) advertisement
- c) ( ) date
- d) ( ) source of information quoted
- e) ( ) quotations from experts
- f) ( ) interview
- g) ( ) title of the publication
- h) ( ) personal opinion

Whenever you read a text online, it is important to check if the source is **reliable**. Always ask yourself: Who is providing the information? Why did they share this information? Is the data verifiable? Be careful to differentiate facts from opinions.

12 Carry out research and answer the questions that follow. Then, discuss with your classmates.

- a) Which national sources of online information are well known where you live? Think about news portals, newspapers, research institutes, etc.

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- b) What about international ones?

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Let's see it again!

1 These people are thinking of how they can participate in the Eco Week at school. Let's help them decide what they can do.

- a) Can she dance in the show?

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- c) Can he sing in the show?

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- b) Can they hand out the flyers?

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- d) Can she help with the stage decorations?

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2 What sports can they practice? Write full sentences using words from the box.

play basketball   play soccer   play tennis   play volleyball   swim

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3 Write sentences about the abilities these people used to have and about what they can do now. There is an example for you.

a) Martha run 10 km / 15 km

Martha could run 10 km. Now, she can run 15 km.

b) Jessie play the piano alone / play with a partner

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c) Liane not understand Mandarin / communicate pretty well

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d) Maggie and Jack play videogame all night long / for a few hours

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e) Leo drink 1 L of water / 2 L

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

f) James not climb a mountain / the Aconcagua

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4 Write down at least four tips for checking if an information source is trustworthy and reliable.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Images: iStockphoto/Robert Oberer; Shutterstock / © iStockphoto; iStockphoto/Robert Oberer; Shutterstock / © iStockphoto; iStockphoto/Robert Oberer; Shutterstock / © iStockphoto; iStockphoto/Robert Oberer

## Can and could

1 Check these sentences from the audio excerpt in the **Let's listen!** section. Underline the modal verb(s) that indicate possibility.

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- In the bedroom, you can recycle magazines, cardboard tissue boxes and even aerosols.
- Back to the kitchen, we can recycle all sorts of cardboard packaging.

2 Modal verbs **can** and **could** indicate possibility (PO), but they're also used to express ability (AB) and permission (PE). Read the following sentences and identify their uses.

	PO	AB	PE
Olive can speak German and English.		x	
Can I open the window? It's hot in here.			x
Tim could swim really fast before he hurt his shoulder.		x	
Could you lend me your pen for a minute?			x
It can be very hot here in the summer.	x		
They could come by bus if their car is broken.	x		
Look at this traffic sign. The driver can't park here.			x

activities

1 Choose the best alternative to complete the sentences.

- a) According to this sign you can't recycle cardboard...  
 I. ( ) boxes.  
 II. (x) food cartons.  
 III. ( ) cartons.



b) According to this sign you can recycle plastic bottles only if they have...

- I. ( ) a cap.  
 II. ( ) a lid.  
 III. (x) a neck.



2 Unscramble the sentences.

a) can recycle - 45% of the garbage - my city

My city can recycle 45% of the garbage.

b) a lot of organic waste - Meghan - when - could compost - she lived in

Meghan could compost a lot of organic waste when she lived in a house.

c) his big brother's books - Joseph - reuse - could - ?

Could Joseph reuse his big brother's books?

d) Jemina - in her house - recycling habits - couldn't change

Jemina couldn't change recycling habits in her house.

e) Peter - can - his garbage bins - show me - ?

Can Peter show me his garbage bins?

3 Think of creative things you can do with these used materials. Illustrate your work. You can draw or glue a picture. Carry out research about different possibilities. The first one is done for you. What can you do with... *Answers will vary. Suggested answers:*

a) a used plastic bottle?

A bird water feeder.



e) old newspapers?

I can use them to

wrap a gift.

b) a glass bottle?

I can make a vase to

put flowers.

f) an egg carton?

I can use it to store

my jewelry.

c) a cardboard box?

I can store toys in it.

g) plastic ice cream container?

I can put food in it.

d) a can of soda?

I can make a pen pot.

h) cardboard tube?

I can make a telescope.





**Let's see it again!** Sugestão de retomada de conteúdos anteriormente estudados.





**1** These people are thinking of how they can participate in the Eco Week at school. Let's help them decide what they can do.

a) Can she dance in the show?  
No, she can't.

b) Can they hand out the flyers?  
No, they can't.

c) Can he sing in the show?  
Yes, he can.

d) Can she help with the stage decorations?  
Yes, she can.

*Reduce, reuse, recycle.*

Ilustrações: Chris Borgen, 2015. Digital.

**2** What sports can they practice? Write full sentences using words from the box.

play basketball    play soccer    play tennis    play volleyball    swim






They can play volleyball.

He can play basketball.

She can swim.

They can play tennis.

She can play soccer.

*Lingua Inglesa 29*

**3** Write sentences about the abilities these people used to have and about what they can do now. There is an example for you.

a) Martha run 10 km / 15 km  
Martha could run 10 km. Now, she can run 15 km.

b) Jessie play the piano alone / play with a partner  
Jessie could play the piano alone. Now, she can play it with a partner.

c) Liane not understand Mandarin / communicate pretty well  
Liane couldn't understand Mandarin. Now, she can communicate pretty well.

d) Maggie and Jack play videogame all night long / for a few hours  
Maggie and Jack could play videogame all night long. Now, they can only play it for a few hours.

e) Leo drink 1 L of water / 2 L  
Leo could drink just 1 L of water. Now, he can drink 2 L.

f) James not climb a mountain / the Aconcagua  
James couldn't climb a mountain. Now, he can climb the Aconcagua.

**4** Write down at least four tips for checking if an information source is trustworthy and reliable.



