

Auxiliary, or helping verbs, are used before infinitives to add a different meaning.

For example, you use auxiliary verbs to say:

- * that someone is able to do something,
- * that someone is allowed to do something, or
- * that someone has to do something.

The helping verbs are **can, could, would, should, ought to, will, shall, may, might and must.**

can and could

Use **can** and **could** to say that someone is **able to do something.**

- * She **can draw** really good pictures.
- * Philip **can run** faster than Matt.
- * **Can** you **ride** a bike?
- * **Can** you **help** me with my homework?
- * She **could** already **read** before she started school.
- * Our teacher said we **could go** home early.
- * I ran as fast as I **could**.
- * Sarah **could not come** to the party because she was ill.

You may also use can and could to say that someone is allowed to do something.

- * My mom says you **can come** to our house for dinner.
- * Dad says I **can't walk** to school on my own.

- * You **can't go** in there without a ticket.
- * Mom said I **could have** ice cream after my dinner.
- * The big sign on the gate said PRIVATE, so we **couldn't** go in.

Can and could are also used for asking for information or help, for offering something, and for suggesting something.

- * **Can you tell** me if this train goes to Topeka?
- * **Could you show** me where the accident happened?
- * **Could you open** that window, please?
- * **You can borrow** my pen, if you like.
- * **Your sister could come** with us, if she wanted to.
- * **I could lend** you my football.
- * **We can go** to the library instead.
- * **You could ask** your dad to help us.* **John can borrow** his brother's skates.

will and would

Use will and would when you are asking someone to do something.

- ***Will you** please stop making that noise?
- * **Would you** pass me that book, please?
- * Please, **will you** close the door?

You can also use **will** and **would** to **offer something** or to **suggest something**.

- * **Will I** hold this end of the rope?

* **Will I** carry the bag for you?

* **Would you** like another drink?

* Which cake **would you** like?

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