

CAN YOU DO IT? – Challenges

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Teaching Notes

AIM

To present the modal verb CAN for ability using a game of questions

SUB AIM

To review alphabet, numbers, basic lexis and any other areas the teacher chooses

LEVEL and AGE

Beginner to Elementary students, teen to adults

NOTE

This activity works best with classes where all the students share the same mother tongue. For mixed L1 classes, omit the teacher challenge section, or group the students into native languages and have them each make their own challenges (this means the teacher will be challenged on his knowledge of several languages!)

PREPARATION

Write two more challenges for your students (based perhaps on material from past classes) in the space provided on the Student Challenge worksheet and make a copy for every student. Make one copy of the Teacher Challenge worksheet for every three students.

WARM UP

Tell the students you have a challenge for them. How many things can they do in English? Ask some sample questions to different students: *Can you count to ten? Can you say my name? Can you say five foods in English?* Encourage them to preface their answer with *Yes I can* or *No I can't*.

CHALLENGES

Distribute the student challenge worksheet. Working alone, students tick the answers that they think they can do. Circulate and help with vocabulary. When they have finished, put them into groups of three. They mustn't attempt the challenges yet.

Now give each group the Teacher challenge worksheet. They must write similar CAN YOU challenge questions in the spaces.

Now write on the board two headings TEACHER and CLASS. Let the challenges begin! First ask one student in one group one of the English challenges. If they answer Yes I can, make them do it. If they are correct, mark 1 point under the class heading. Now that group has a chance to challenge you. Continue this way, alternating groups. Who has the biggest number of points at the end of the game?

FOLLOW UP

I have used this game with beginning students to introduce the modal CAN for ability. When we've finished the game, I present the verb CAN more formally (positive, negative, question and short answer) before moving on to more traditional exercises in the textbook.

CAN YOU DO IT IN ENGLISH?

STUDENT CHALLENGE!

CHALLENGE	YES I CAN ✓
Can you spell your first name and last name in less than a minute?	
Can you give your address and phone number?	
Can you count to twenty in ten seconds?	
Can you name three cities in England and three cities in the USA?	
Can you say the months of the year backwards in thirty seconds?	
Can you sing some words from a song in English?	
Can you ask a question starting with each of these words: WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, HOW?	

CAN YOU DO IT IN MY LANGUAGE?

TEACHER CHALLENGE!

Write your questions here. You can use the other worksheet for ideas.
