



## Lessons: 6 and 7

### Modal : can / (present ability) / could / couldn't ( past ability)

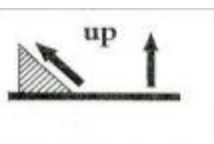
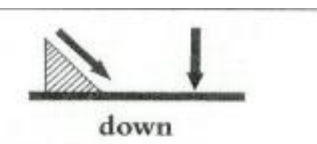
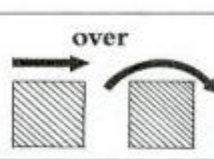
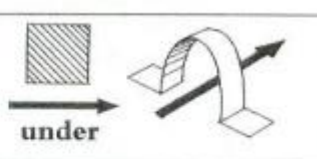
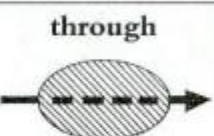
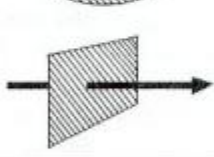

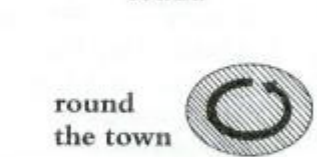
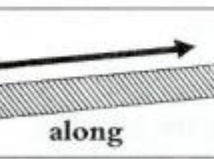
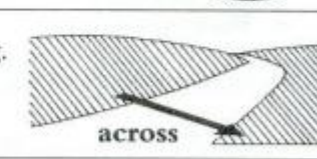
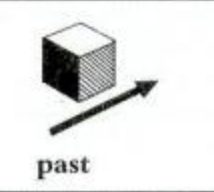
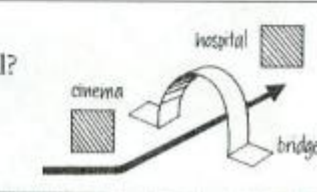
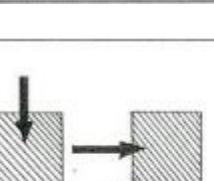
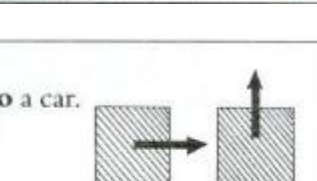
**I can** do something = I *know how* to do it or *it is possible* for me to do it:

- I **can play** the piano. My brother **can play** the piano too.
- Sarah **can speak** Italian but she **can't speak** Spanish.
- 'Can you **swim**?' 'Yes, but I'm not a very good swimmer.'
- 'Can you **change** twenty pounds?' 'I'm sorry, I **can't**.'
- I'm having a party next week but Paul and Jenny **can't come**.

For the past (**yesterday / last week** etc.), we use **could/couldn't**:

- When I was young, I **could run** very fast.
- Before Anna came to Britain, she **couldn't understand** much English. Now she **can understand** everything.
- I was tired last night but I **couldn't sleep**.
- I had a party last week but Paul and Jenny **couldn't come**.

### Prepositions of motion :

 <p><b>up</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We walked <b>up</b> the hill to the house.</li> <li>• Be careful! Don't fall <b>down</b> the stairs.</li> </ul>	 <p><b>down</b></p>
 <p><b>over</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plane flew <b>over</b> the mountains.</li> <li>• I jumped <b>over</b> the wall into the garden.</li> <li>• Some people say it is unlucky to walk <b>under</b> a ladder.</li> </ul>	 <p><b>under</b></p>
 <p><b>through</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bird flew into the room <b>through</b> a window.</li> <li>• The old road goes <b>through</b> the village.</li> <li>• The new road goes <b>round</b> the village.</li> <li>• The bus stop is just <b>round</b> the corner.</li> <li>• I walked <b>round</b> the town and took some photographs.</li> </ul> <p>You can also use <b>around</b> (= round):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We walked <b>around</b> the town.</li> </ul>	 <p><b>round</b></p>  <p><b>round the town</b></p>
 <p><b>along</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I was walking <b>along</b> the road with my dog.</li> <li>• Let's go for a walk <b>along</b> the river.</li> <li>• The dog swam <b>across</b> the river.</li> </ul>	 <p><b>across</b></p>
 <p><b>past</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They walked <b>past</b> me without speaking.</li> </ul> <p>A: Excuse me, how do I get to the hospital?  B: Go along this road, <b>past</b> the cinema, under the bridge and the hospital is on the left.</p>	
 <p><b>into (in)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We jumped <b>into</b> the water.</li> <li>• A man came <b>out of</b> the house and got <b>into</b> a car.</li> <li>• Why are you looking <b>out of</b> the window?</li> <li>• I took the old batteries <b>out of</b> the radio.</li> </ul> <p>We say <b>put</b> something <b>in</b> ... (not usually 'into'):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I <b>put</b> the new batteries <b>in</b> the radio.</li> </ul>	 <p><b>out of</b></p>

## Past continuous

## Past continuous

Affirmative	Negative
I/He/She/It 1) <b>was</b> ... <b>playing</b> a game.	I/He/She/It <b>wasn't</b> <b>sleeping.</b>
We/You/They 2) <b>were</b> ... <b>watching</b> TV.	We/You/They <b>weren't reading</b> a book.
Yes/No Questions	Short Answers
<b>Was</b> she <b>watching</b> TV? <b>Were</b> they <b>reading</b> a book?	Yes, she <b>was.</b>  No, they 3) <b>weren't</b> . ...

### Use

We use the **past continuous**:

- for an action that was **in progress** at a stated time in the past. We do not know when the action started or finished. *Last night, Mary and Tom were watching a film on TV.* (We do not know when they started or finished watching the film.)
- for a past action which was **in progress** when another action **interrupted** it. We use the **past continuous** for the action in progress (longer action) and the **past simple** for the action which interrupted it (shorter action). *I was eating dinner when Mary phoned.*

- for two or more actions which were happening **at the same time** in the past (simultaneous actions).  
*Mum was cooking dinner while Mary was watching the snow falling outside.*
- to give background information to a story. *It was raining and the wind was blowing when we left home.*

**Time words/phrases used with the past continuous:**

while, when, as, all day/night/morning, all day  
yesterday, etc

**Note:**

... *when/while/as* + **past continuous** (longer action)

... *when* + **past simple** (shorter action)