

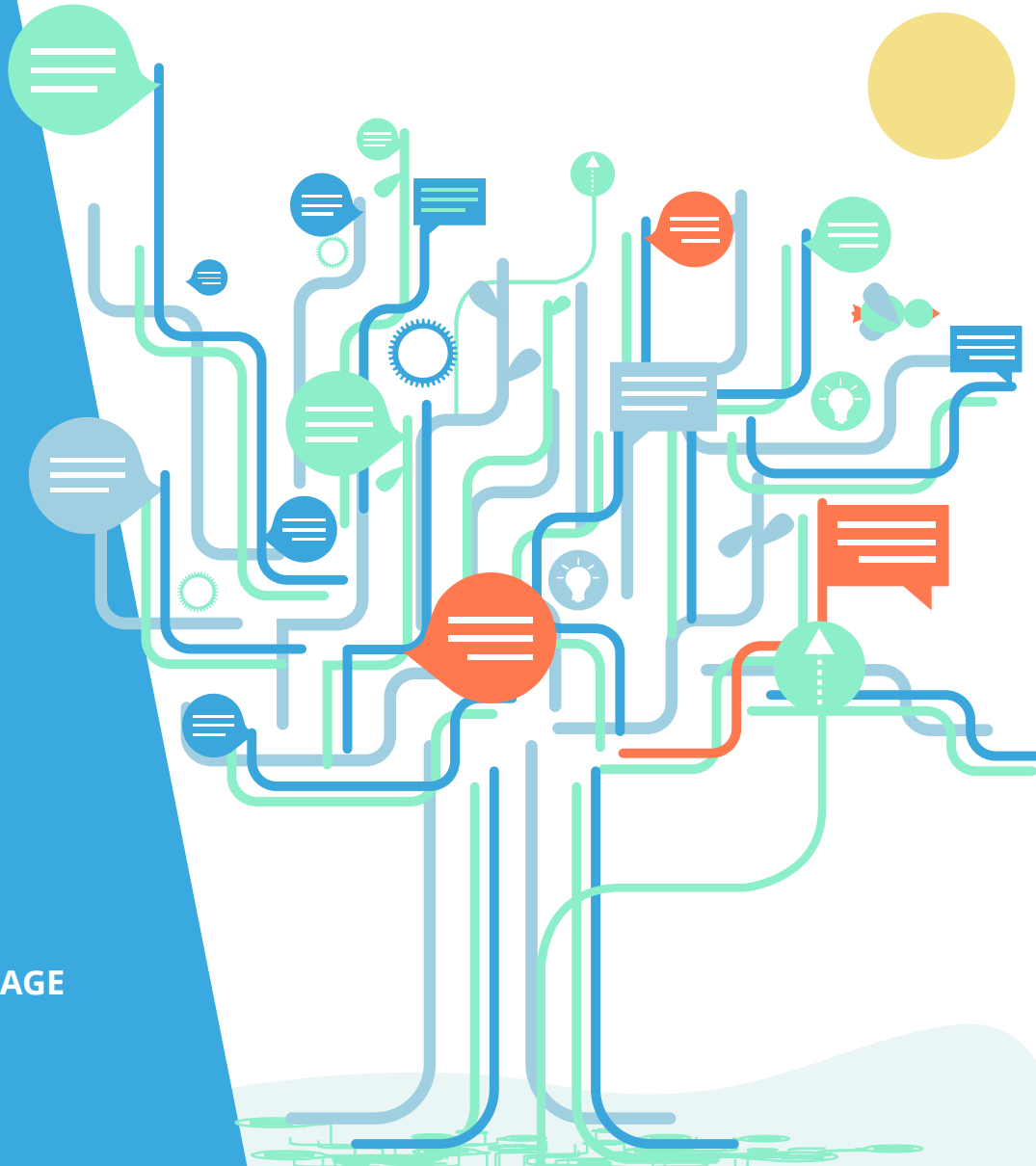
# Modal verbs of ability and advice

GRAMMAR

LEVEL  
Beginner

NUMBER  
A2\_1043G\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English

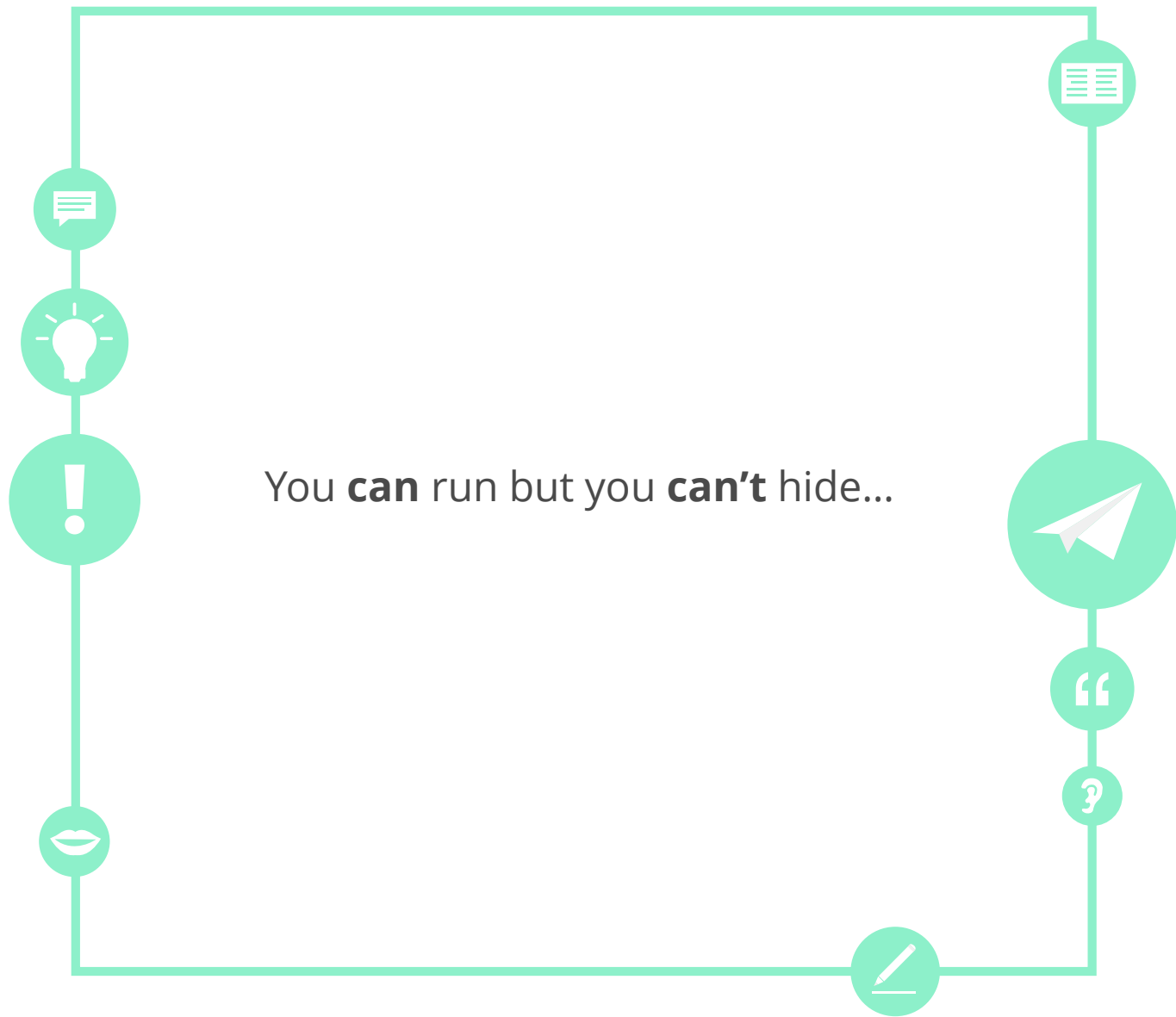




## Goals

- Review the form and meaning of *can*, *could* and *should*
- Practise building sentences using modal verbs







## Modal verbs of ability

Use **can** and **can't** to talk about someone's **skills** or **general ability** in the **present**.

Use **can** and **can't** for **all** subjects.

Use the **base form** of a verb **after** modal verbs.

Personal pronoun	Modal verb	Base form
I	can	run.
You	can	ski.
She	can't	swim.
They	can't	do yoga very well.

can



I **can** run.

can



You can ski.

can't



He **can't** concentrate.

can't



They **can't** do yoga very well.





## Find the odd one out



A



B



C



D



## Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with the correct verb. Then, answer the questions with your teacher.

1. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ tennis?
2. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ 25 metres?
3. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ down a mountain?
4. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish?
5. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ a big meal?
6. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ a boat?

ski

cook

sail

play

speak

swim



## Past ability

Use **could** and **couldn't** to talk about someone's **skills** or **general ability** in the **past**.

Now	Past
I <b>can</b> play football.	I <b>could</b> play football.
He <b>can</b> run a marathon.	He <b>could</b> run a marathon.
She <b>can't</b> swim very well.	She <b>couldn't</b> swim very well.
We <b>can't</b> climb mountains.	We <b>couldn't</b> climb mountains.



## True or false?

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Cows can sleep standing up.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The dodo could fly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Kangaroos can't hop without their tails.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Most dinosaurs couldn't fly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Gorillas can't catch human colds.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Ostriches can run faster than horses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Match the sentences

1. I can play...

a. swim.

2. He could...

b. ride a bike last year.

3. We can...

c. tennis.

4. She couldn't...

d. can't ski.

5. You...

e. climb trees when he was young.



## Could and can

Say something that your grandparents could do that you can't. Then, try it the other way around.



She could...

≠



...but I can't.



≠





What can you do?

Tell a classmate what you *can* do now and what you *could* do in the past.





## Modal verbs of advice

- Use **should** to **give advice** or say something is a **good idea**.
- Remember to use the **infinitive** after a modal verb.

Personal pronoun	Modal verb	Infinitive
I	should	<b>study</b> for the test.
You	should	<b>do</b> exercise regularly.
She	should	<b>be</b> an athlete.
We	should	<b>go</b> surfing this weekend.

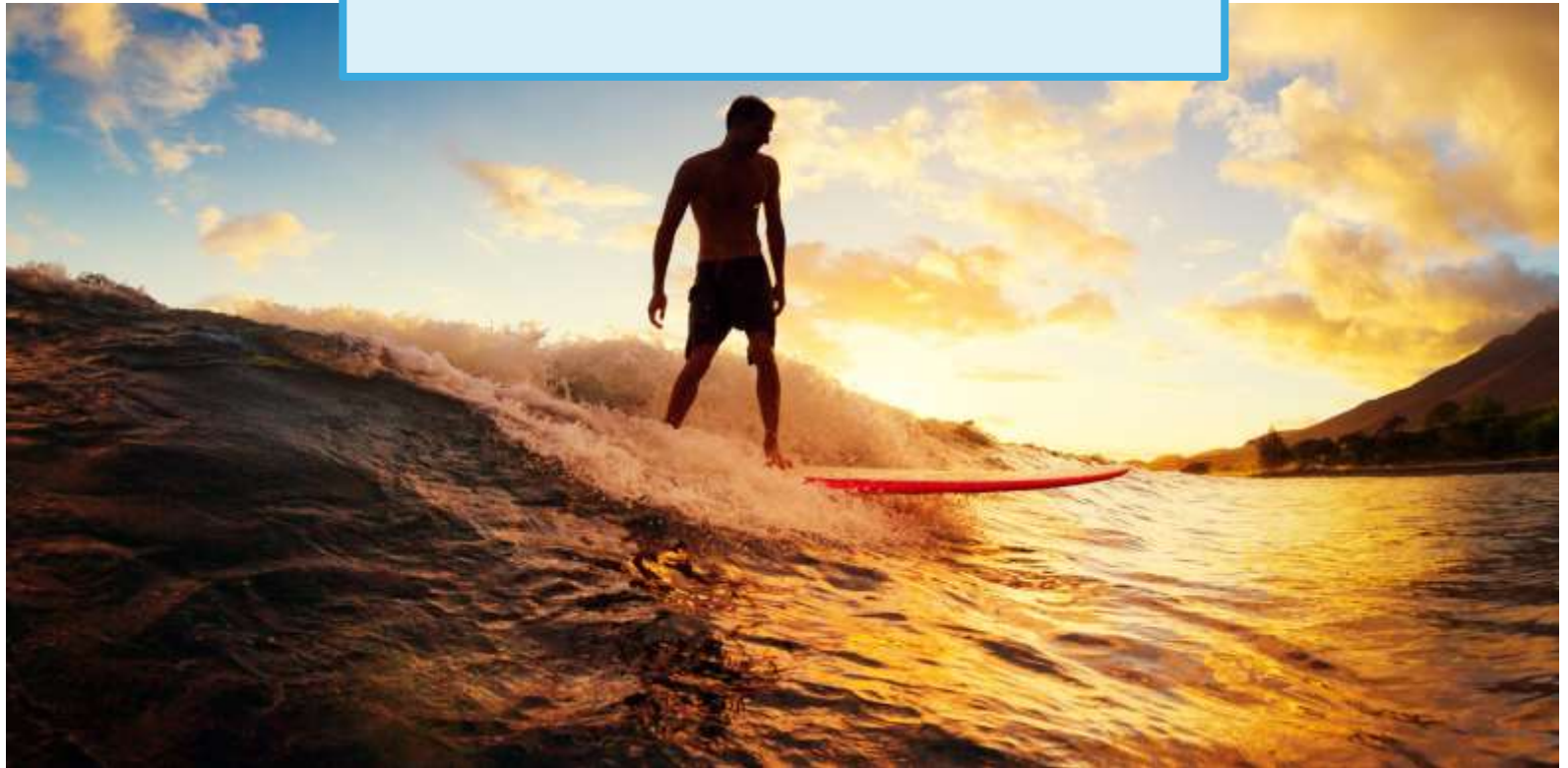


should



You should **do** exercise regularly.

should



We **should** go surfing this weekend.



## Giving advice



**Should** is often used to **give advice** when there is a **problem** or **complaint**.

Problem or complaint		Advice
I'm tired.	→	You <b>should</b> go to bed.
I'm fat.	→	You <b>should</b> do more exercise.
I feel sick.	→	You <b>should</b> go to the doctor.



What should she do?



do some exercise

go to the doctor



## Choose the correct answer

1. I'm tired.

**a. You should take a nap.**

**b. You should go for a walk.**

2. I'm hungry.

**a. You should do some exercise.**

**b. You should eat something.**

3. I'm going to London.

**a. You should visit the Colosseum.**

**b. You should visit Big Ben.**

4. I'm overweight.

**a. You should do more exercise.**

**b. You should eat a pizza.**



## Think of something they should do in these situations

1. You shouldn't eat so much chocolate.

→ You should eat more healthy food.

2. You shouldn't be so lazy.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. You shouldn't be friends with him.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. You shouldn't drive to work.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. You shouldn't watch so much television.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Can and should

**Your friend is travelling to London tomorrow. What should he know? What English words can you teach him?**

please

thank you

Hello!



## Think of advice you can give for these situations

sick

hungry

poor

bored

thirsty

on vacation  
in Paris





## Giving advice

Give advice to a tourist visiting your town or city.



What **can** you do?

What **can't** you do?

What **should** you do?



## Help me!

- Think of a **problem** and tell your classmate.

Your classmate must give you some advice!



## Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

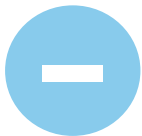
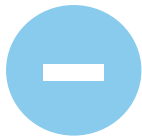
no




## Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.  
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?

If you have time, go over  
the most difficult slides again





## Answer key

### Exercise p.9

C (He can't ride a bike.)

### Exercise p. 10

1. Play - 2. swim - 3. ski - 4. speak - 5. cook - 6. sail

### Exercise p. 12

1. T, 2. F, 3. T, 4. T, 5. F, 6. T

### Exercise p.13

1. c - 2. e - 3. a - 4. b - 5. d

### Exercise p.20

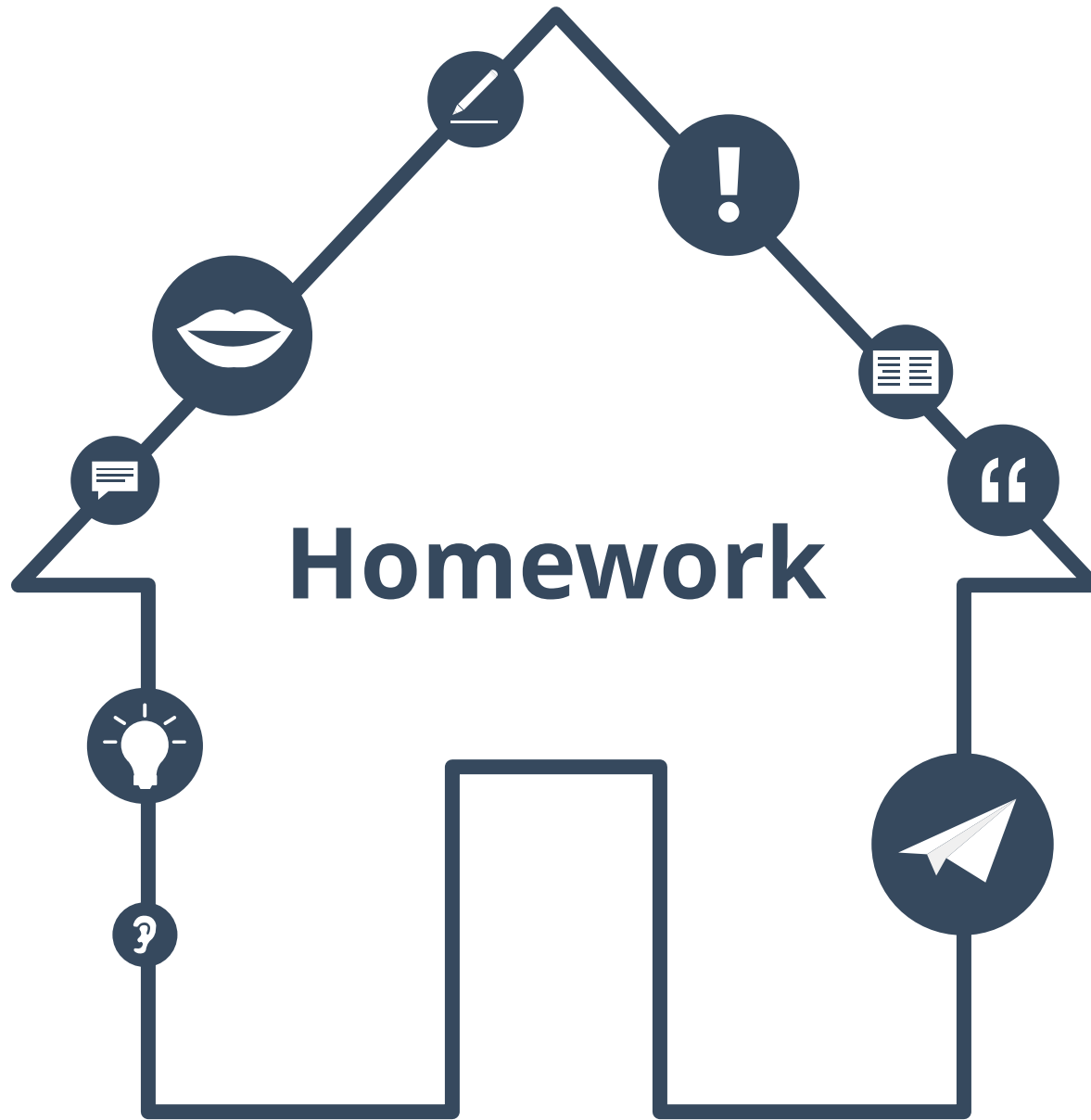
go to the doctor

### Exercise p.21

1. a - 2. b - 3. b - 4. a

### Exercise p.22

Suggested answers: 2. You should exercise more. - 3. You should make new friends.  
- 4. You should take the bus. - 5. You should read more books.





## Match the sentences

1. You should go to the doctor...

2. I can...

3. He...

4. You should take a nap...

a. when you're sick.

b. if you're tired.

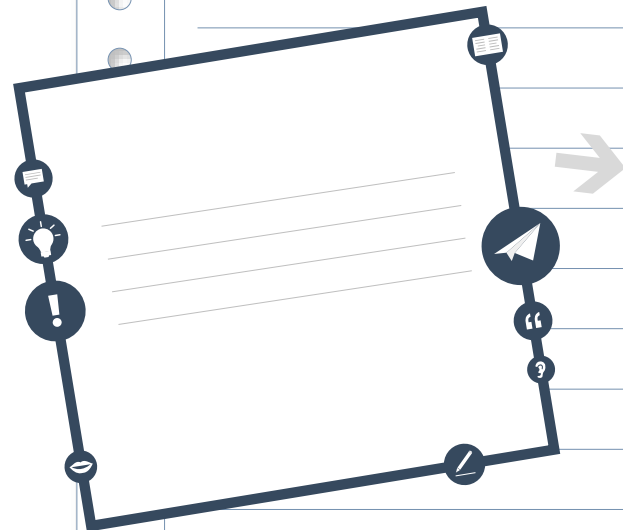
c. sing very well.

d. can't swim.



## Text at the beginning

**Go back to the text on page 3  
and find examples of  
the grammar topic of this lesson in it.  
Write them down.**



Copy parts of the text  
that are examples of  
topic of the lesson.





## Find the verbs

**Find the verbs in this lesson and write them down.  
Which are new? Do you know all of them?  
Look these words up.**

Verbs

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Sentences in the first person plural

**Choose five sentences from this lesson.  
Copy them and write them about you and a friend.**



\_\_\_\_\_



Examples:

\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



I don't understand

\_\_\_\_\_



→ My friend Maria and I don't understand.

\_\_\_\_\_



He has a book

\_\_\_\_\_



→ We have a book

\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



...

\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_





## Easy or difficult?

Is the grammar topic of this lesson...  
easy or difficult?

Write down what is difficult for you and what is easy.

A vertical sheet of white paper with a spiral binding on the left side and horizontal lines for writing.



## Homework answer key

**Exercise p.18**  
1. a - 2. c - 3. d - 4. b



## About this material



Find out more at  
[www.lingoda.com](http://www.lingoda.com)

This material is proudly provided by

**lingoda**

and can be used by anyone for free and  
for any purpose.

### **lingoda** Who are we?



Why learn English online?



What kinds of English classes do we offer?



Who are our English teachers?



How do our English certificates work?



We also have a language blog!