


CAN or MAY
at school





**The
school
starts
today!**



You can do many great things!

Someone said: "One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher **can change the world."**

So, let's start together!

Mum, today is the first day of school,
I can't be late and I can't find my
schoolbag!




Look under your desk, it **can** be there, you always keep it there!



And my cap? I **can't** find
anything now!





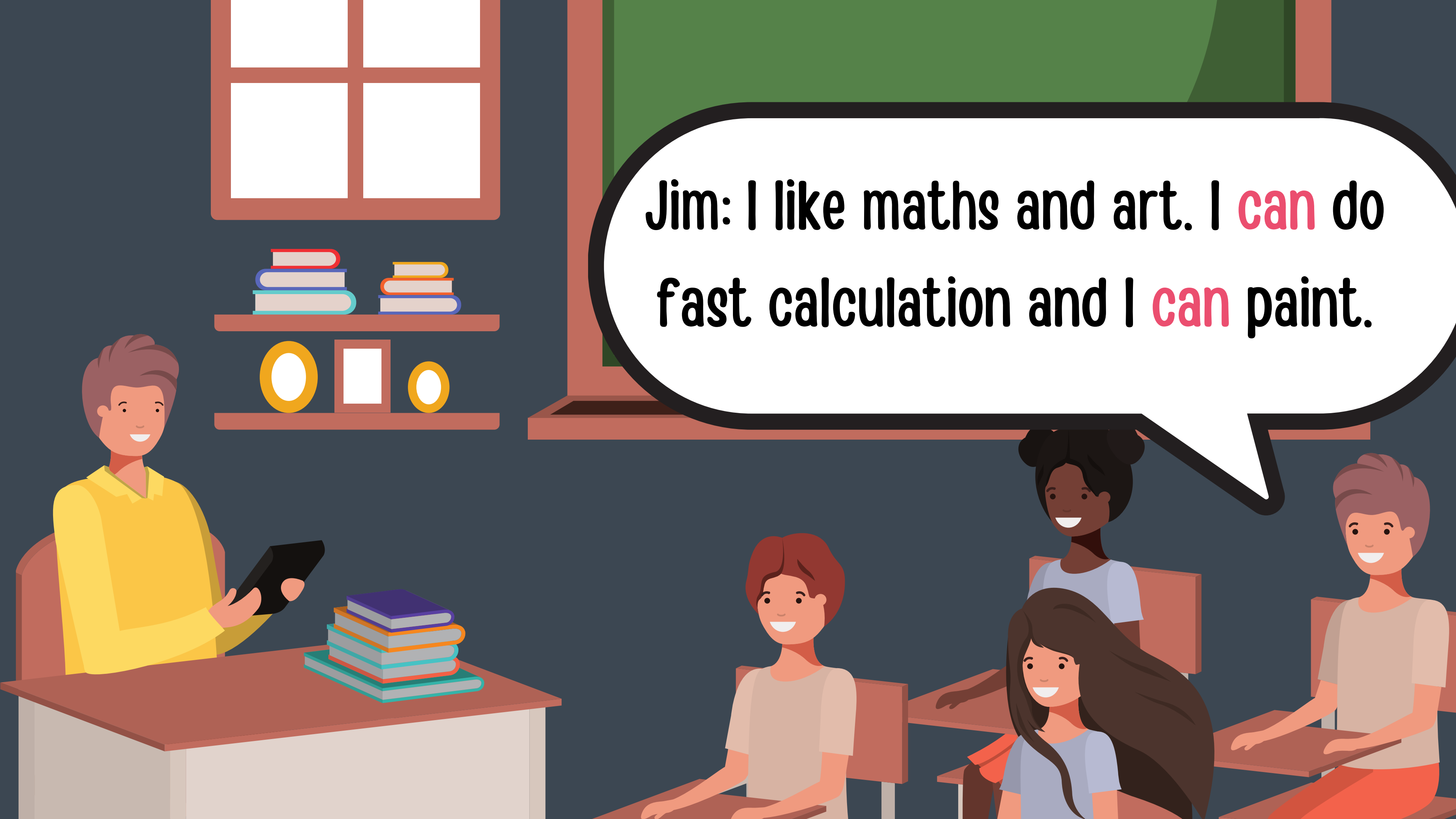
Can you wait a few minutes,
please? I'll help you!

At school, the teacher asks children:



What do you like most at school?




An illustration of a classroom. A teacher, a man with brown hair wearing a yellow shirt, sits at a desk on the left, holding a tablet. On his desk is a stack of five books. Behind him is a bookshelf with two stacks of books and two gold rings. To the right, four diverse students are seated at desks, looking towards the teacher. A large speech bubble originates from the students, containing the text. The background features a window with four panes and a green chalkboard.


Jim: I like maths and art. I **can** do fast calculation and I **can** paint.

Which one do you like more?




An illustration of a classroom. A male teacher with brown hair, wearing a yellow sweater, sits at a desk on the left, holding a tablet. On his desk is a stack of five books. Behind him is a bookshelf with two stacks of books and two gold circular ornaments. To the right, four diverse students are seated at desks, looking towards the teacher. A large speech bubble originates from the students, containing the text. The background features a green chalkboard and a window with four panes.

Jim: Oh, I love art. I **could** paint for hours without getting bored.

An illustration of a classroom. A male teacher with brown hair, wearing a yellow shirt, sits at a desk on the left, holding a tablet. On his desk is a stack of five books with purple, orange, grey, light blue, and teal covers. In the foreground, three female students are seated at desks. The student on the left has short brown hair and is wearing a beige shirt. The student in the middle has long black hair and is wearing a blue shirt. The student on the right has short brown hair and is wearing a beige shirt and an orange skirt. In the background, there is a window with four panes and a green chalkboard. A large white speech bubble with a black border is positioned in the center, containing text.

Mary: And I love music classes. I **can** sing, but I **can't** play an instrument very well. I take guitar courses.



John: **May** I go to the toilet,
teacher?

Of course you **may!** Go!




An illustration of a classroom. A male teacher with brown hair, wearing a yellow shirt, sits at a desk on the left, holding a tablet. On his desk is a stack of five books. In the center, a large white speech bubble with a black border contains the text. To the right, several diverse students are seated at their desks, smiling. In the background, there is a window with four panes, a bookshelf with books and a yellow ring, and a green chalkboard with a world map on it.

Dan: Teacher, I **can** run 100m in
7 seconds.



Bobby: And I can swim! I took swimming classes on holiday.

An illustration of a classroom. A male teacher with brown hair, wearing a yellow shirt, sits at a desk on the left, holding a tablet. On his desk is a stack of five books. Behind him is a shelf with books, a framed picture, and two gold circles. In the center, a large speech bubble contains text. To the right, a female student with long brown hair, wearing a blue shirt, is speaking. The rest of the classroom is filled with diverse students sitting at their desks, all smiling. A green chalkboard with a blue and green map is visible in the background.

Anne: And I **can** ski and
skate! Last winter I went
skating a lot.

I **could** ski when I was a
child!

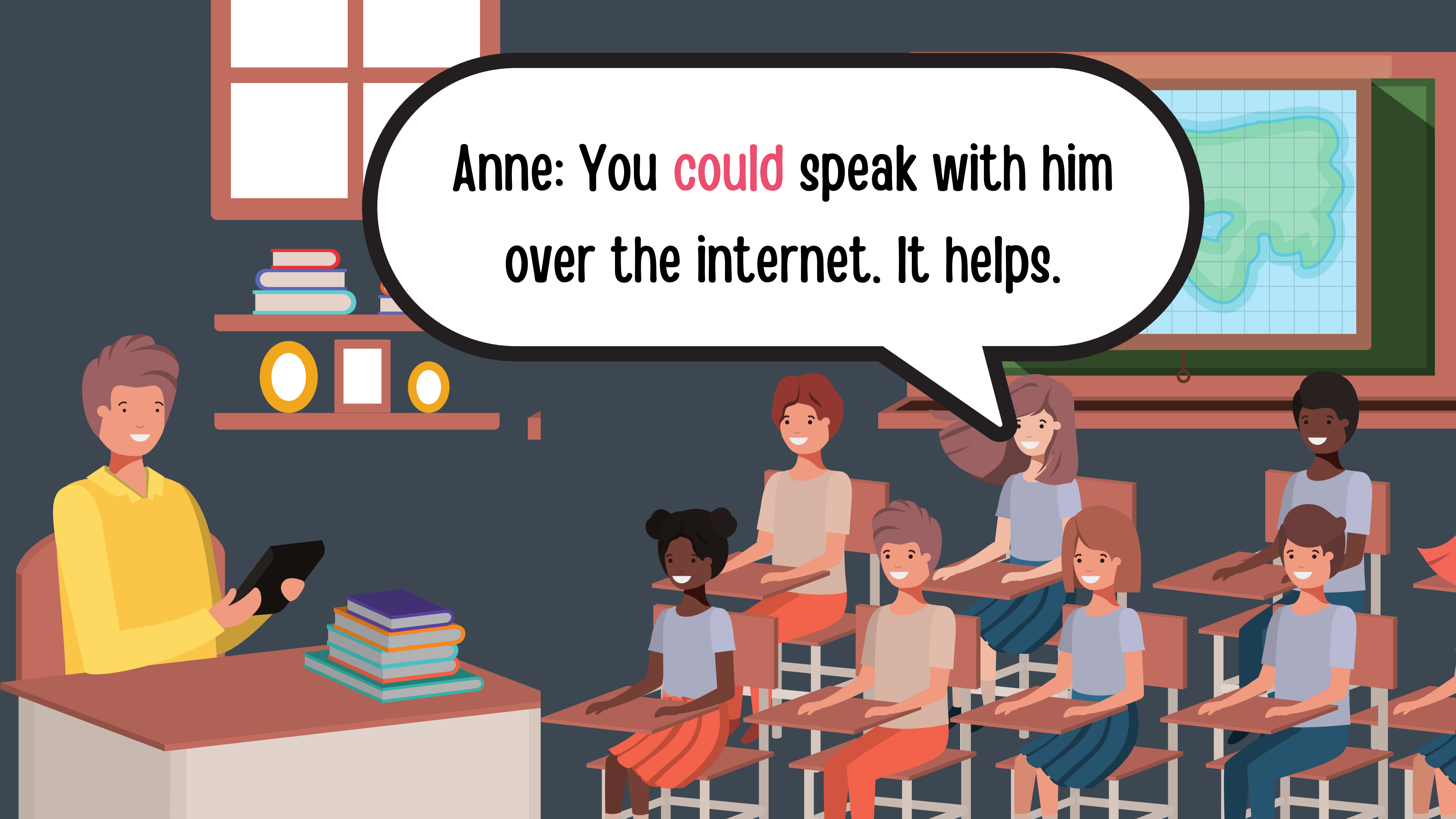


An illustration of a classroom. A male teacher with brown hair, wearing a yellow shirt, sits at a desk on the left, holding a tablet. On his desk is a stack of five books. Behind him is a bookshelf with two stacks of books and two yellow circular ornaments. A window with four panes is above the shelf. In the foreground, several diverse students are seated at desks, smiling. A large speech bubble originates from the students, containing the text. The background is a dark blue wall.

Jake: Teacher, I **can** speak French! I am a beginner now. But I learn something every day. I have a friend in France and I want to visit him.

That's great, Jake. We start French classes this year. So you **can** learn faster.



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Anne: You **could** speak with him
over the internet. It helps.

So, you **can** do so many great things!
I am very proud of you, my dears!!





And now, the
lesson:

CAN / COULD = a putea

Can are aceeași formă pentru toate persoanele la
indicativ prezent.

I, you, she, he, it, we, you, they **can**

Când negăm folosim **cannot** scris legat, sau forma scurtă **can't**.

Când întrebăm, folosim **can** în fața subiectului:

Can I go out?

Can este întotdeauna urmat de verb la forma de infinitiv (adică aceea din dicționar: **be, go, tell, have...**)

Could este forma de trecut a lui "**Can**", și de subjonctiv-condițional. Se folosește pentru toate persoanele:

I, you, she, he, it, we, you, they **could/couldn't**

Using can or could we express:

(Cu can sau could poți exprima):

1) **Ability/ Capacity to do something** (Capacitatea (fizică sau intelectuală) de a face ceva, o acțiune. Adică abilitatea.)

Mary **can** sing, but she can't play an instrument very well.

I **could** ski when I was a child! (Puteam să schiez (știam să schiez) când eram copil.)

We can replace the verb **can** or **could** with "be able to", "be capable of", or "know how to".

And I **can** ski and skate!

And I **am able to** ski and skate!



2) Permission in a familiar way.

Familiar: **Can** I go out, mum?

Permission in a formal way:

John: **May** I go to the toilet, teacher?

(folosim **Can** pentru a exprima permisiunea într-un mod familiar.

"**May**" se folosește pentru a exprima o permisiune, a cere voie, dar la un grad mai înalt de politețe).

We use **could** to express permission in past:

(Folosim **could** pentru a exprima permisiunea în trecut.)

On holidays we all **could** sleep until 10 o'clock. – În vacanțe aveam voie să dormim până la ora 10.



3) Possibility, Supposition

(Posibilitatea, presupunerea.)

I am late, all my classmates **can** be there now. – Am întârziat, e posibil ca toți colegii mei de clasă să fie acolo, acum.

He **could** be late. E posibil să întârzie.

It **could** rain today. Ar putea ploua astăzi.

4) Request (for a polite request could is better than can)

(Când exprimăm o cerere, o rugămintă **could** este mai politicos decât **can**.)

Can you wait a few minutes? - Poți să aștepți câteva minute?

Could you help me, please?



5) **Could + have + past participle** - to express that something could have been done in the past, but it wasn't.

(Could urmat de have și de participiul trecut este folosit când exprimăm faptul că în trecut ceva se putea face, dar nu s-a făcut)

He is my deskmate and my friend, he **could** have helped me, but he didn't.

El îmi este coleg de bancă și prieten, ar fi putut să mă ajute, dar nu a făcut-o.

MAY / MIGHT - used to express permission in a formal way,
it is a polite way to speak.

(a putea, a avea voie, a cere sau a acorda permisiunea într-un mod politicos, oficial)

May I say something? - Îmi permiteți să spun ceva?

Yes, you **may**. - Sigur că da.

When the first person (I) offers to help or something else.

May I help you? Îmi permiteți să te ajut?

Might – the past form of may expresses also the permission but this way: (exprimă la fel permisiunea, dar în felul următor:)

Might I go out? – Is there a possibility for me to go out? (Aș putea oare ieși?)

You **might not** go in there. – I think you are not allowed to enter. (Cred că nu ai voie să intri acolo)

They **might** be all in front of the school now. (S-ar putea să fie toți în fața școlii acum)

May/Might + bare form of infinitive expresses that something is possible to happen in present or in future (at or after the moment of speaking).

- **May/Might + verbul la infinitiv** arată că ceva este posibil să se întâmple în prezent sau în viitor (adică în sau după momentul vorbirii).

Mum, uncle George may come today . – **Mamă, unchiul George poate veni azi.**

I don't know, he might come tomorrow. – **Nu știu... s-ar putea să vină mâine.**

Interrogative and negative form of may expressing possibility (may not) are replaced by: "do you think + present/future" or "be likely + infinitive".

La întrebări sau la formele negative, "May" exprimând posibilitatea este înlocuit de construcțiile "do you think + prezent/viitor" sau "be likely + infinitiv".

Do you think uncle George will come today? - Crezi că unchiul George o să vină astăzi?

Mum, **is** uncle George **likely** to come today? - Crezi că unchiul George o să vină astăzi?

Exercises

Complete the following sentences with can, could, may, might...

1. Look under your desk, it be there, you always keep it there!
2. And my cap? Ifind anything now!
3. I ... do fast calculation and I ... paint.
4. I ski when I was a child!
5. I go out, mum?

Exercises

Complete the following sentences with can, could, may, might...

6. John: ... I go to the toilet, teacher?

7. You ... speak with him over the internet. It helps.

8. On holidays we all sleep until 10 o'clock.

9. I am late, all my classmates ... be there now.

10. He be late.

11. It rain today.

Exercises

Complete the following sentences with can, could, may, might...

12. you wait a few minutes?

13. you help me, please?

14. He is my deskmate and my friend, he have helped me, but he didn't.

15. I say something?

16. You not go in there.

ANSWERS

1. can
2. can't
3. can, can
4. could
5. Can
6. May
7. could
8. could
9. can
10. could
11. could
12. Can
13. Could
14. could
15. May
16. might



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