

Abilities of Animals Can/ Can't Games

Play the game(s) below that your teacher tells you to.

Can can't random pelmanism

Spread the cards across the table (either face up or face down, as your teacher tells you). Take two cards and say something that both can do and something both can't do, e.g. "They can swim. They can't fly". If your partner agrees and you haven't repeated sentences that were used earlier in the game, you can keep the cards and score two points. If you can't think of two statements, if your partner doesn't agree with your statements, or you use the same sentence as someone has already said, then you have to put the cards back in (exactly) the same place and don't score any points.

Can can't brainstorming

Choose one of the cards and take turns brainstorming one positive sentence and one negative sentence about its abilities until one person gives up, e.g. "It can dive but it can't live underwater" for "duck". Continue until someone says something that isn't true or repeats something that was said before in that round about that thing, then give everyone else in the group one point. Then do the same with other cards.

Can can't guessing game

Choose one of the cards and look at it but don't show it to your partner(s). Say what that animal can and can't do without saying its name until your partner guesses what you are talking about. If they can't guess, you can give hints without "can" like "It's (usually) yellow" and "It's very big". Your teacher will tell you if you can use the suggested verbs and/ or suggested sentences below.

Designing animals game

After you play describing real animals games like those above, take turns describing your own and your partner's imaginary animal/ monster/ Pokémon with similar "can" and "can't" sentences, using both a positive and negative sentence each time. You should try to make your imaginary animal as powerful and interesting as possible, so only make negative sentences about small and unimportant things like "It can't stand on one foot". You want your thing to be better than your partner's, so make positive sentences about small things and negative statements about big things when you describe your partner's animal, such as "It can't stand up" and "It can sleep all day". You can't change what was said earlier.

Your teacher will tell you if you should write down and/ or draw what you decide, or if you should just try to remember.

When your teacher stops you, someone from another group will judge which person in each group has the best animal.



Animal cards

ant	bat	bee
butterfly	camel	cat
cheetah	cicada	cockroach
cow	crocodile	dog
dolphin	duck	elephant
fish	giraffe	goat
horse	kangaroo	monkey
mosquito	octopus	ostrich
panda	parrot	penguin
pig	rabbit	shark
sheep	snake	spider
tiger	wolf	

Suggested language for describing the abilities of animals

You...

It...

A baby/ Babies...

bite

break

buy

carry

catch

change

chew

clean

climb

dig

do tricks

drink

eat

feed

fight (with its horns)

fly

give

have

hear

hide

jump (very far/ very high)

keep

kill

live

make (a loud noise/ eggs/ ink/ many babies)

play

punch

ride

run (quickly)

scratch

see

sing

sleep (upside down)

slide

smell

speak

stand up

stay (underwater)

stop

stroke

swim

use

walk

Suggested things to say about the abilities of animals

In alphabetical order by animal

Ant

It can carry a leaf
It climb a wall
It can bite you
It can't make a loud noise
It can sometimes fly
One queen can make so many eggs (millions of eggs)
It can't swim
It can live underground
You can keep it in a fish tank in your house
It can't live on its own

Bat

It can fly
It can fly at night
It can catch flies
Sometimes it can drink blood
You can see it flying at night
It can sleep upside down
It can "see" by making a noise

Bee

It can make honey
It can fly
It can eat from flowers
It can hurt you
It can't bite you
It can kill some people

Butterfly

It can't live for a long time
It can sometimes fly a long way
It can make eggs on leaves
It can't eat leaves
It can eat from flowers
You can catch it in a net
It can't make a loud noise

Camel

You can ride it
It can live in the desert
It can walk on sand
It can carry lots of things
You can see it in Egypt



Cat

It can clean itself with its tongue
You can keep it in your house
You can't take it for a walk
It can scratch you
You can stroke it
You can't give it a bath

Cheetah

It can run quickly
It can eat a zebra
It can't eat an elephant
It can't fight a lion

Cicada

It can make a loud noise
It can't live in the winter
It can live in a tree
You can catch it
You can hear it in summer
It can't live in cold countries

Cockroach

It can live in your house
You can catch it in a trap
It can climb a wall
It can fly (but it usually doesn't fly)
You can kill it with a slipper
It can run quickly

Cow

You can make leather from it
You can eat it
You can drink its milk
You can make cheese from its milk
You can make butter from its milk
You can see it on a farm
It can fight with its horns
You can make yoghurt from its milk

Crocodile

It can swim
It can eat you
It can hide in a river
It can eat fish
It can catch animals



Dog

It can do tricks
It can smell you
It can play soccer
You can keep it in your house
It can't go into some parks
It can't use a toilet
It can stop bad people coming in your house
It can eat meat
It can eat bones
It can't eat chicken bones
It can make a loud noise
It can't drink with its lips
You can stroke it
You can give it a bath
You can take it for a walk
You can eat it (but only people in some countries eat it)
You can buy big ones and small ones

Dolphin

It can speak with clicks
It can swim
It can jump out of the water
It can fight sharks
It can catch fish
You can see it in an aquarium
It can swim underwater, but it can't stay underwater
You can swim with it in the sea
It can do tricks

Duck

You can eat it
You can eat its eggs
You can see it in a river
You can see it in a pond
It can make a loud noise

Elephant

You can ride it
It can drink with its nose
A lion can eat a baby one
You can make piano keys from it
You can see it in a zoo
It can live more than 100 years
It can carry a lot
It can break a tree



Fish

You can eat it
It can't live on land
You can keep it in the classroom
You can keep it in a pond
It can live in the sea
It can stay underwater
It can make many eggs
You can eat its eggs

Giraffe

It can eat leaves from a tall tree
A baby can stand up and run

Goat

It can eat many different things
It can eat clothes
It can fight with its horns
You can make cheese from its milk
You can drink its milk (but it isn't so yummy)

Horse

You can ride it
It can run quickly
It can jump
It can kick
You can feed it

Kangaroo

It can keep its baby in its pocket
It can jump (very far)
It can punch
It can live in hot places
It can't fly
It can eat grass
It can't eat meat
A baby can't walk

Monkey

It can carry its baby
It can climb a tree
It can take your camera
You can see it in a zoo
You can see it in a temple in Thailand
You can see it in a hot spring in Japan
You can see it in Gibraltar
It can climb into your house



Mosquito

It can drink your blood
It can fly at night
It can't live in cold places
It can make a noise when it flies
It can fly
It can make eggs in water
It can give you malaria

Octopus

It can make ink
It can live underwater
It can change colour
You can eat it
A big one can fight a whale

Ostrich

It's a bird but it can't fly
It can run quickly
It can make really big eggs
You can eat it, but you can't buy it in a supermarket

Panda

It can stand up
It can climb a tree
It can't eat grass
It can only eat bamboo
It can only live in China (in the wild)
You can see it in the zoo
It can't eat you
Babies can't walk

Parrot

It can speak English
It can live in your house
It can eat nuts
It can eat fruit
It can fly
It can bite you
It can make eggs
It can climb a tree
It can live in a cage



Penguin

It can live in cold places
It's a bird but it can't fly
It can only make one egg
It can't sing
It can't walk quickly
It can slide on the ice
It can swim (very quickly)
It can eat fish
A sea lion can eat it
You can eat it, but it's not tasty

Pig

You can eat it
You can make ham from it
It can eat old fruit and vegetables
It can live in this country
A small one can be a pet
It can make many babies
It can get very fat
It can get very heavy
It can't eat you

Rabbit

It can dig
You can have it as a pet
It can jump
It can run fast
It can make many babies
You can eat it (but people don't usually eat it)
A dog can sometimes catch it
It can't climb a tree
It can sometimes change colour to white in the winter

Shark

It can eat you
It can catch fish
It can smell blood
It can't live outside the water
It can live underwater

Sheep

You make cheese from its milk
You make a sweater from its hair
You can see it in England
You can eat it
It can drink milk from a baby bottle



Snake

It can't walk
It can't fly
It can climb a tree
It can bite you
It can't chew
It can catch animals
It can't run

Spider

It can climb a wall
It can catch flies
It can bite you
It can't eat you
It's a bug but it can't fly

Tiger

It can catch a deer
It can eat you
You can see it in India
You can see it in a zoo
It can hide in the forest

Wolf

It can make a very loud noise
It can eat you
It can live in a forest