

Unit 8 Can this fish fly?

★Activities to learn how to talk about body movements and can / cannot.

Unit Aims

Basic words that express movements come from movements of human beings and animals. There are many kinds of movements that human beings and animals make. In this unit, we have selected only the characteristic movements among these in order to focus on words expressing movements. It can also be a good opportunity to learn about animals by thinking about whether snakes can climb trees or whether zebras can swim. We have also included tasks in which children jump forward, sideways, and back, so they can think about what they can do and actually try them out.

Vocabulary

fly jump swim run walk climb

Classroom English

Can this penguin jump?

The penguin can jump.

Elephants cannot fly.

Can you jump forward 1 meter?

Step of Activities

- (1) Thinking about whether animals can do the movements shown on the page. P.35
- (2) Checking the answers of the previous page by looking at the page. P.36
- (3) Drawing circles around the movements children think the animals can

do. P.37

- (4) Thinking about whether each child can do the tasks found on the page and then actually trying them out. P.38

Reference

The “can” and “cannot” are used to express capabilities. There are no problems using questions such as “Can birds fly?” and asking about what animals can do and discussing the capabilities of various animals, as seen in this unit. However, using questions “Can you ~?” will lead to asking about personal capabilities. Rather than asking questions such as “Can you speak English?”, it would be more polite to ask “Do you speak English?” It would be a good idea to introduce that there are preferable expressions, such as the case for “Can you ~?”, in daily conversations.

Other Possible Activities

1. Children observe their own pets or look up various books to find out what animals (other than those found on p.37) can and cannot do and report the results to their classmates.
2. Children show their classmates special movements they can do and ask whether others can do the same. They do the movement and ask the class “Can you do this?”. Children who think they can do the same respond “Yes, I can.” and come up to the front to copy the movement. It would be a fun activity just thinking about a movement only you can do.