



ADVENTURES IN LANGUAGE



MANDARIN CHINESE ACTIVITY

How to express ability in Mandarin Chinese?

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1 Choose the correct words 会 (huì), 能 (néng), or 可以 (kěyǐ) to finish the sentences below.

1. 我想吃意大利面，你 ____ 做吗？(会 or 能)
Wǒ xiǎng chī yìdàlì miàn, nǐ ____ zuò ma?
I want to have spaghetti. Do you know how to cook it?
2. 你 ____ 借我20块钱吗？(会 or 可以)
Nǐ ____ jiè wǒ èrshí kuài qián ma?
Can you lend me 20 dollars?
3. 我身体不舒服，明天不 ____ 去上班了。(会 or 能)
Wǒ shēntǐ bù shūfu, míngtiān bú ____ qù shàngbān le.
I am not feeling well. I can't go to work tomorrow.
4. 他不是飞行员，他不 ____ 开飞机。(能/可以 or 会)
Tā búshì fēixíngyuán, tā bù ____ kāi fēijī.
He is not a pilot and he doesn't know how to drive an airplane.
5. 他不是飞行员，他不 ____ 开飞机。(能/可以 or 会)
Tā búshì fēixíngyuán, tā bù ____ kāi fēijī.
He is not a pilot and he is not allowed to drive an airplane.

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2 Translate the following sentences into Mandarin Chinese.

写 xiě to write	汉字 hànzì character	给 gěi to give	一杯 yìbēi glass of
水 shuǐ water	用 yòng to use	卫生间 wèishēngjiān bathroom	唱歌 chànggē to sing
嗓子 sǎngzi throat	疼 téng to hurt	修 xiū to fix	车 chē car

1. **Can** he write this character? (Does he know how to write this character?)

2. **Can** you give me a glass of water?

3. **May** I use the bathroom?

4. I **can't** sing. My throat really hurts.

5. Who **knows how to/can** fix the car?

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1

1. 我想吃意大利面，你会做吗？(会 or 能)
I want to have spaghetti. Do you know how to cook it?
2. 你可以借我20块钱吗？(会 or 可以)
Can you lend me 20 dollars?
3. 我身体不舒服，明天不能去上班了。(会 or 能)
I am not feeling well. I can't go to work tomorrow.
4. 他不是飞行员，他不会开飞机。(能/可以 or 会)
He is not a pilot and he doesn't know how to drive an airplane.
5. 他不是飞行员，他不能/可以开飞机。(能/可以 or 会)
He is not a pilot and he is not allowed to drive an airplane.

2

1. **Can** he write this character? (Does he know how to write this character?)
他会写这个汉字吗？
Tā huì xiě zhège hànzi ma?
2. **Can** you give me a glass of water?
你能/可以给我一杯水吗？
Nǐ néng/kěyǐ gěi wǒ yìbēi shuǐ ma?
3. **May** I use the bathroom?
我能/可以用一下卫生间吗？
Wǒ néng/kěyǐ yòng yíxià wèishēngjiān ma?
4. I **can't** sing. My throat really hurts.
我不能唱歌。我的嗓子很疼。
Wǒ bùnéng chànggē, wǒde sāngzi hěn téng.
5. Who **knows how to/can** fix the car?
谁会修车？
Shuí huì xiū chē?