

Can vs May

Look in the grid for the words below:

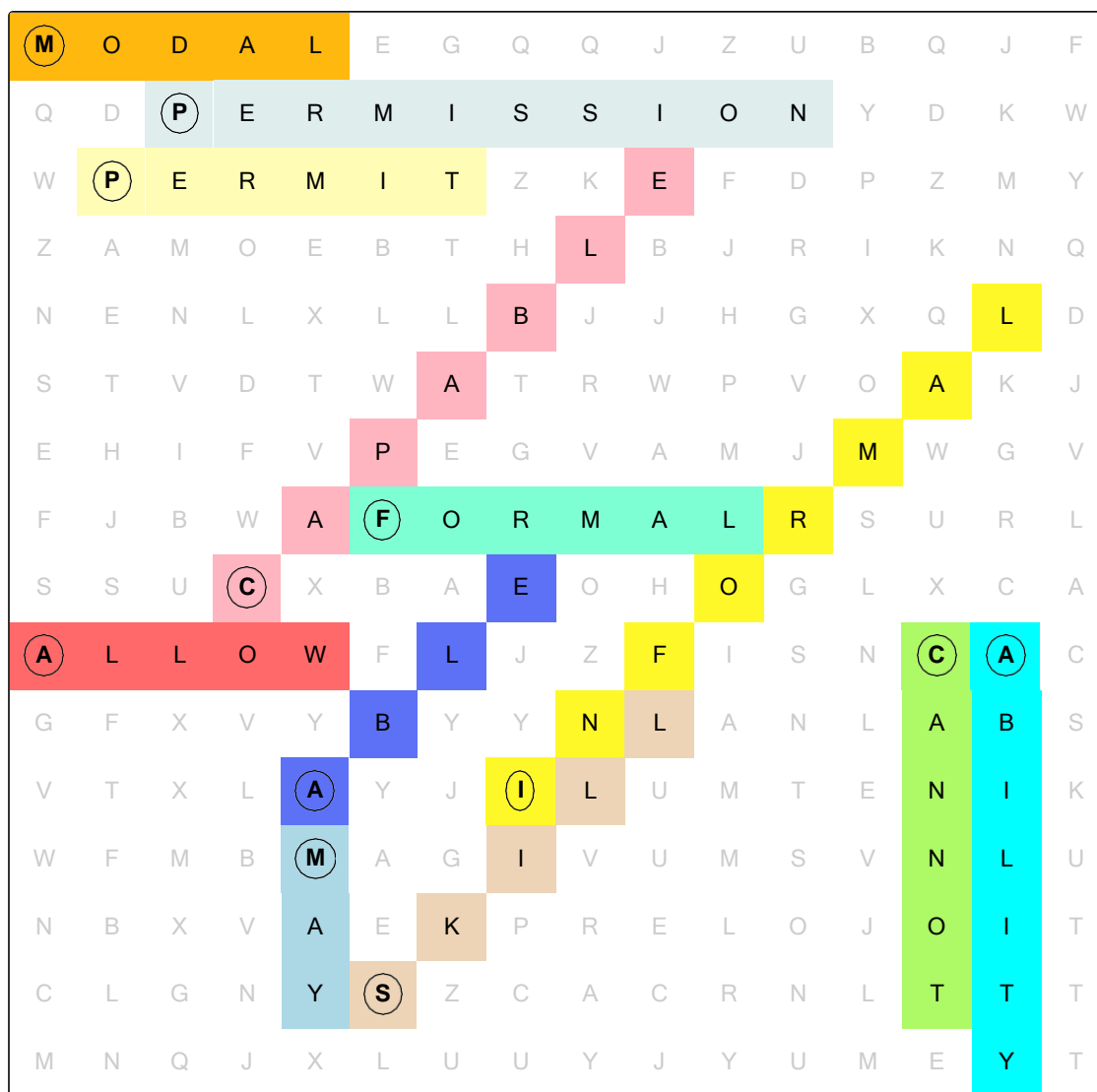
M	O	D	A	L	E	G	Q	Q	J	Z	U	B	Q	J	F
Q	D	P	E	R	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	Y	D	K	W
W	P	E	R	M	I	T	Z	K	E	F	D	P	Z	M	Y
Z	A	M	O	E	B	T	H	L	B	J	R	I	K	N	Q
N	E	N	L	X	L	L	B	J	J	H	G	X	Q	L	D
S	T	V	D	T	W	A	T	R	W	P	V	O	A	K	J
E	H	I	F	V	P	E	G	V	A	M	J	M	W	G	V
F	J	B	W	A	F	O	R	M	A	L	R	S	U	R	L
S	S	U	C	X	B	A	E	O	H	O	G	L	X	C	A
A	L	L	O	W	F	L	J	Z	F	I	S	N	C	A	C
G	F	X	V	Y	B	Y	Y	N	L	A	N	L	A	B	S
V	T	X	L	A	Y	J	I	L	U	M	T	E	N	I	K
W	F	M	B	M	A	G	I	V	U	M	S	V	N	L	U
N	B	X	V	A	E	K	P	R	E	L	O	J	O	I	T
C	L	G	N	Y	S	Z	C	A	C	R	N	L	T	T	T
M	N	Q	J	X	L	U	U	Y	J	Y	U	M	E	Y	T

may
ability
allow

permission
formal
permit

cannot
informal
able

skill
modal
capable



may ↓

permission →

cannot ↓

skill ↗

ability ↓

formal →

informal ↗

modal →

allow →

permit →

able ↗

capable ↗

12 words in Wordsearch: 3 vertical, 5 horizontal, 4 diagonal. (0 reversed.)



Name: _____

Date: _____

Can vs May

cannot	casual	modal	asking	skill	worthy
competent	informal	may	allow	capable	familiar
freedom	exact	able	formal	permission	accurate
tolerance	allowed	unofficial	consent	official	permit
ability	permitted				

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. mya | m _ _ | 14. aucsla | c _ _ _ _ |
| 2. oeimisrnp | p _ _ _ _ _ _ _ | 15. llowa | a _ _ _ _ |
| 3. ntcona | c _ _ _ _ _ | 16. ipemrt | p _ _ _ _ _ |
| 4. kllis | s _ _ _ _ | 17. aelb | a _ _ _ |
| 5. irifmaal | f _ _ _ _ _ _ _ | 18. tosnene | c _ _ _ _ _ _ |
| 6. catex | e _ _ _ _ | 19. blaacep | c _ _ _ _ _ _ |
| 7. tilyaib | a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ | 20. asgnik | a _ _ _ _ _ |
| 8. arfmol | f _ _ _ _ _ | 21. foemred | f _ _ _ _ _ _ |
| 9. iorfalnm | i _ _ _ _ _ _ _ | 22. eittmdpre | p _ _ _ _ _ _ _ |
| 10. lamdo | m _ _ _ _ | 23. alficunfio | u _ _ _ _ _ _ _ |
| 11. actrelnoe | t _ _ _ _ _ _ _ | 24. dlwlaeo | a _ _ _ _ _ _ |
| 12. caercaut | a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ | 25. poecnmtet | c _ _ _ _ _ _ _ |
| 13. ywthor | w _ _ _ _ _ | 26. aifoficl | o _ _ _ _ _ _ _ |



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- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. mya | m a y | 14. aucsla | c a s u a l |
| 2. oeimisrsnp | p e r m i s s i o n | 15. llowa | a l l o w |
| 3. ntcona | c a n n o t | 16. ipemrt | p e r m i t |
| 4. kllis | s k i l l | 17. aelb | a b l e |
| 5. irifmaal | f a m i l i a r | 18. tosnene | c o n s e n t |
| 6. catex | e x a c t | 19. blaacep | c a p a b l e |
| 7. tilyaib | a b i l i t y | 20. asgnik | a s k i n g |
| 8. arfmol | f o r m a l | 21. foemred | f r e e d o m |
| 9. iorfalnm | i n f o r m a l | 22. eittmdpre | p e r m i t t e d |
| 10. lamdo | m o d a l | 23. alficunfio | u n o f f i c i a l |
| 11. actrelnoe | t o l e r a n c e | 24. dlwlaeo | a l l o w e d |
| 12. caercaut | a c c u r a t e | 25. poecnm tet | c o m p e t e n t |
| 13. ywthor | w o r t h y | 26. aifoficl | o f f i c i a l |

Commonly confused verbs: Can - May

Write “can” or “may” in each sentence.

1. I can write with both hands.
2. You _____go to the bathroom.
3. Your parents _____visit Mexico next winter.
4. Melody _____play the piano beautifully.
5. _____I have the butter, please?
6. She _____cook an amazing meal.
7. You _____have a second helping of dessert.
8. Yes, they _____play with their blocks in the living room.
9. _____you put the leftovers in the fridge, please?
10. _____I eat the last piece of cake?

Hint:
“Can” is used to show ability.
“May” is the most polite way
to express permission.



Complete the sentences with the pieces, using the correct word.

(1) anywhere department be can / may
 The fire _____ in the city in five minutes.

(2) may / can you break not
 _____ the law by speeding.

Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

(1) She _____ run a mile in under
(can, may)
 five minutes.

(2) The large jug _____ hold five
(may, can)
 gallons of water.

(3) _____ we take some balls out
(may, can)
 of the closet?

(4) This crane _____ lift a large
(may, can)
 sailboat right out of the water.

(5) I _____ definitely pass the test
(can, may)
 on the first try.

(6) In my country, you _____ not
(can, may)
 drive until you are sixteen.

If the wrong word is being used, cross it out and write what it should be.
 Otherwise, write "correct."

(1) May I eat the last slice of pizza?

(4) Can I use your bathroom to wash
 my hands? _____

(2) May this medicine really cure the
 common cold? _____

(5) Yes, you can go over there if you
 want to. _____

(3) How may a jet plane land with only
 one engine? _____

(6) You can find all kinds of information
 on the Internet. _____