

## Verbs: a Final Word

Finally let us have a look at the following verb which is quite unusual: can, that remains the same in the present tense, though in other tenses it reverts to its alternative form to be able.... It is in fact based on the German können = to be able, e.g.

<i>I was able</i>
<i>You were able</i>
<i>He, she it was able</i>
<i>We were able</i>
<i>You were able</i>
<i>They were able</i>

So although there is a Past Tense of can, i.e. could, in the Future Tense it can only be expressed as: I will be able;

### could

This is a very difficult word too, as although it can be a simple Past Tense: I could go yesterday, you can also use it as a Conditional (See later for treatment of this...); If I could go...

### Situation

What basically we are saying is that it is the meaning that is most important, and this can only be seen by looking at the sentence or the context, and then trying to see what the speaker/writer actually meant.

And in real life you find this is the true answer: the situation always saves you! So although we use the same words with a variety of meanings, in practice there is rarely real confusion, as the context or situation will explain it all. Practice makes perfect, otherwise no one would be able to express anything! No problems!

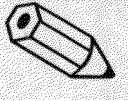
### Conclusion

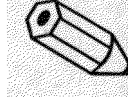
And as almost the final and perhaps not so cheerful conclusion let us **took** at the verb to die. Although you say

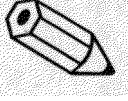
die, died, have died,  
you also say: is **dead** (a different word altogether!)

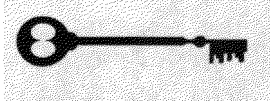
The opposite more optimistically is: **to be born**, which by the nature of its meaning is usually in the Past Tense: I was born and so on... You can at times have the Future, or Conditional, i.e. he will be born, he would be born, but rarely the Present.

He is born is used in a religious context but as far as I am aware not outside this: i.e. Jesus is born... (One has to recognize this is a bit old fashioned and not everyday speech... c.f. Jesus is risen which is a similar Biblical expression)

<b>Activity 1</b>	Nouns (See Key at the end). Please name the type of noun in the list below: and say whether each is masculine, feminine, neuter, or abstract.
	Liverpool; capital; flock; cleanliness; (a) lie; Tommy; girls

<b>Activity 2</b>	<b>Verbs:</b> Please answer the questions below. In the following sentences identify which words are the <b>verbs</b> , and which the <b>pronouns</b> .
	a) The express train arrived early at the busy station. b) Have you brought your bag with you? c) He went out at 9.30 this morning. d) The journey took me at least one and a half hours. e) Peter has been to the pictures twice this week

<b>Activity 3</b>	Rewrite the above sentences in the Present Tense: you can use the space below:
	a) b) c) d) e)

**Key** 

## Activity One

Liverpool = Proper Noun; neuter  
capital = Common Noun, neuter  
flock = Collective Noun; gender unclear, as a mixture, could be male or female...  
cleanliness = Abstract Noun, no gender.  
a lie = Abstract Noun, again no gender  
Tommy = Proper Noun, male (masculine)  
Girls = Common Noun, female, (feminine)

## Activity Two

- (a) Verb = arrived;  
No pronoun
- (b) Verb = have; (strictly brought is not a verb but a Past Participle, part of the Present Perfect Tense. Have is known as an Auxiliary Verb as in this type of sentence, i.e. one with the Past Tense, have cannot stand by itself but needs the Past Participle to make complete sense...  
  
Pronoun: you (twice)
- (c) Verb = went out (in English we have a lot of verbs consisting of more than one word; out is called a Preposition, see later section for more about Prepositions...)  
  
Pronoun = he
- (d) Verb = took  
Pronoun = me
- (e) Verb = has; (been = Past Participle)  
No Pronoun

## Activity Three

- a) The express train arrives early at the busy station.
- b) Are you bringing your bag with you? (This is quite difficult as in the Present you have to use the Continuous form)
- c) He goes out at 9.30 this morning.
- d) The journey takes me at least one and a half hours.
- e) Peter goes (is going) to the pictures twice this week.

(This again is tricky as has been is another way of saying: has gone...  
The point always to remember is that meaning rules more than the look of the word.)

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