

THE FUNCTIONS OF CAN AND WILL IN ENGLISH

by Alice Pack

I. As main verbs (must have objects).

Subject	Verb	Object
I	can	vegetables.
She	cans	fruit.
The dairy	cans	milk.
He	willed	his property to his son.
She	is willing	everything to charity.

II. As modals (must be followed by a main verb).

Subject	Modal	Verb	
I	can	go.	
She	can	can	fruit.
He	can	drive	a car.
They	can	dance.	
He	can	will	his property to anyone.
He	will	go.	
She	will	can	the fruit.
They	will	will	their property to the school.
They	will	come	tomorrow.

III. As count nouns. (Singular form must have a determiner).

(Subject)	The can was empty.
(Subject)	The can is rusty.
(Object)	He put some sand in the can.
(Object)	I like these new cans.
(Subject)	The will is invalid.
(Object)	She made a will.