



SOCIAL MEDIA - A2

I. About this lesson

Activity title: Social media

Level: A2

Subject: English as a foreign language

Timing: 50 min

Resources: worksheet

Learning objectives:

- a. Acquiring specific vocabulary linked to the subject “social media”;
- b. Discovering modal verbs;
- c. Being able to use “can”, “can’t” and “cannot” in a sentence;

Material needed: board, pens, projector

II. Lesson scenario

1. Instruction for the teacher

Introduction

Start the lesson with a short “Check IN” by telling students:

- a. Today, we will study the topic of social media.
- b. I will tell you about the use of the modal verb “can”.
- c. We will do an exercise about it.



- d. Then I will present the vocabulary linked to social media and we will do a second exercise, using both the vocabulary and “can”.
- e. After this, we will recap and call it a day!

Discovering modal verbs with ‘can’

- a. Print the worksheet with exercise 1 and distribute it among students
- b. Start by explaining what a modal verb is, and how they differ from regular verbs. Give the entire list as an introduction. Let students know that they will only work on “can” during this lesson.
- c. Explain the different uses of “can” and give some examples. The table 1 included in the worksheet might help you.
- d. Explain how to form each type of sentence. A reminder is included in the worksheet, below the table 1.
- e. Explain the difference between “can’t” and “cannot”.
- f. Ask the students to complete the exercise individually, and then ask some of the students to read the completed version of the exercise out loud.

Answers exercise 1 – task 1:

1. Elsa and Arthur can’t/cannot meet us at the café tonight.
2. Matt can speak French.
3. Can Tom find his house key?
4. You can swim in this river.
5. You can’t help me carry the bags home.



Social media vocabulary

- a. Print the worksheet with exercise 2 and distribute it among students.
- b. Have them read the first comic strip as an introduction.
- c. In the worksheet – exercise 2, table 2 – you will find a list of words and expressions that can be used in the context of this lesson. Write or project them on the board and ask your students the ones they know and their definitions. If there are any that students do not know, give their definition.

Caution: Please note that most words are not considered under A2 level. This list was put together as students have probably already come across most of them in their daily life.

- d. Have them read the second comic strip (task 1), which inscribe the vocabulary just studied in the context.
- e. Ask the students to complete task 2 individually, and then ask some of the students to read the completed version of the exercise out loud.

Finish the lesson with a short “CHECK OUT”

- a. During the lesson we learned about social media.
- b. The most important things were the vocabulary and the different uses of the modal verb “can”.
- c. We were able to talk about what we can and cannot do, both in real life and on social media.



2. Worksheet for the student

EXERCISE 1: FORM SENTENCES WITH “CAN”

This table summarises the uses of “can” and “can’t” seen earlier in the lesson:

Table 1:

can	Used when someone has the ability to do something	Maria can eat with chopsticks.
	Used when something is possible	Turtles can live up to a hundred years.
	Used to give permission	Paul can use my car to go to the supermarket if he wants to.
	Used to form a request (Attention: for informal use!)	Can I borrow your book?
can't / cannot	Used when someone lacks the ability to do something	Sophie can't/cannot ride a bike.
	Used when something is not possible or is impossible	Humans can't/cannot live underwater.
	Used to forbid something	You can't/cannot swim in the lake.

Here is how to form sentences with “can” and “can’t”:

- Positive: Subject + CAN + verb + complement
- Negative: Subject + CAN'T / CANNOT + verb + complement
- Questions: CAN + subject + verb + complement + ?



TASK 1: Read the example below.

Then, try to transform each sentence into the type of sentence requested.

Example: "I cannot swim very well." (question)

→ Answer: "Can you swim very well?"

1. Elsa and Arthur can meet us at the café tonight. (negative)

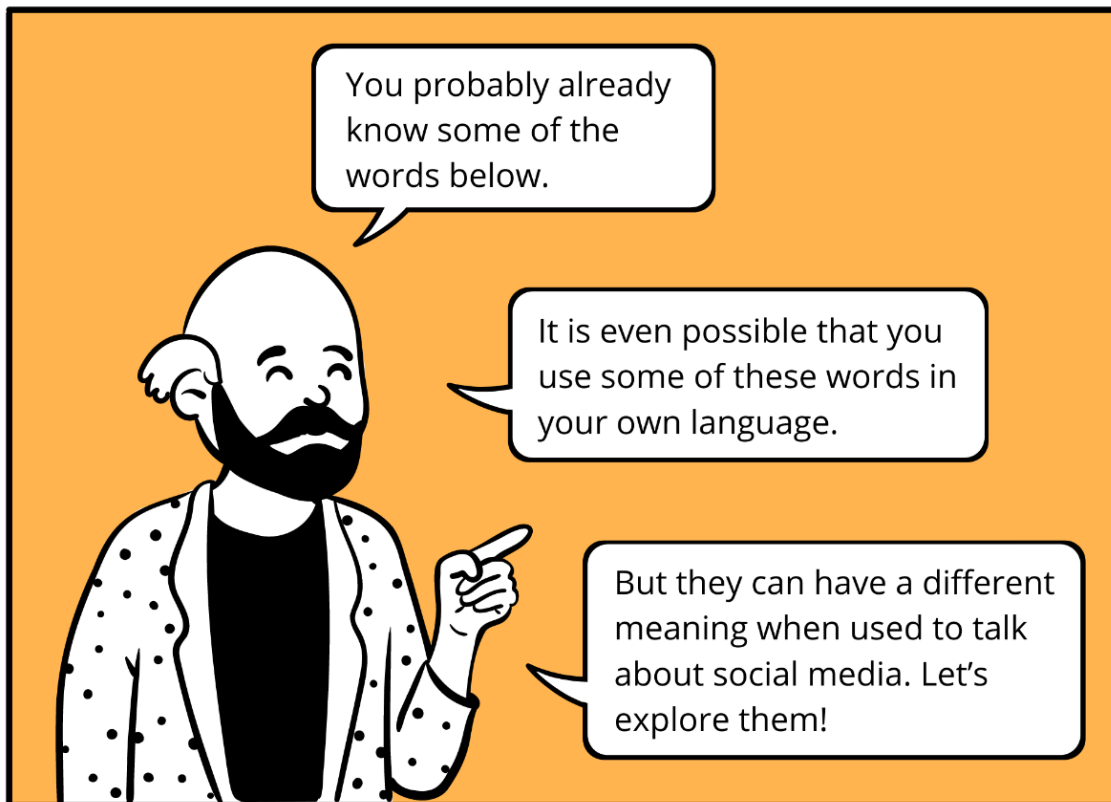
2. Can Matt speak French? (positive)

3. Tom can't find his house key. (question)

4. You cannot swim in this river. (positive)

5. Can you help me carry the bags home? (negative)

EXERCISE 2: SOCIAL MEDIA VOCABULARY



You will find below a list of the most common verbs used when talking about social media, as well as a few important nouns.

Be careful: these words all exist outside of the “social media” context and can mean different things.



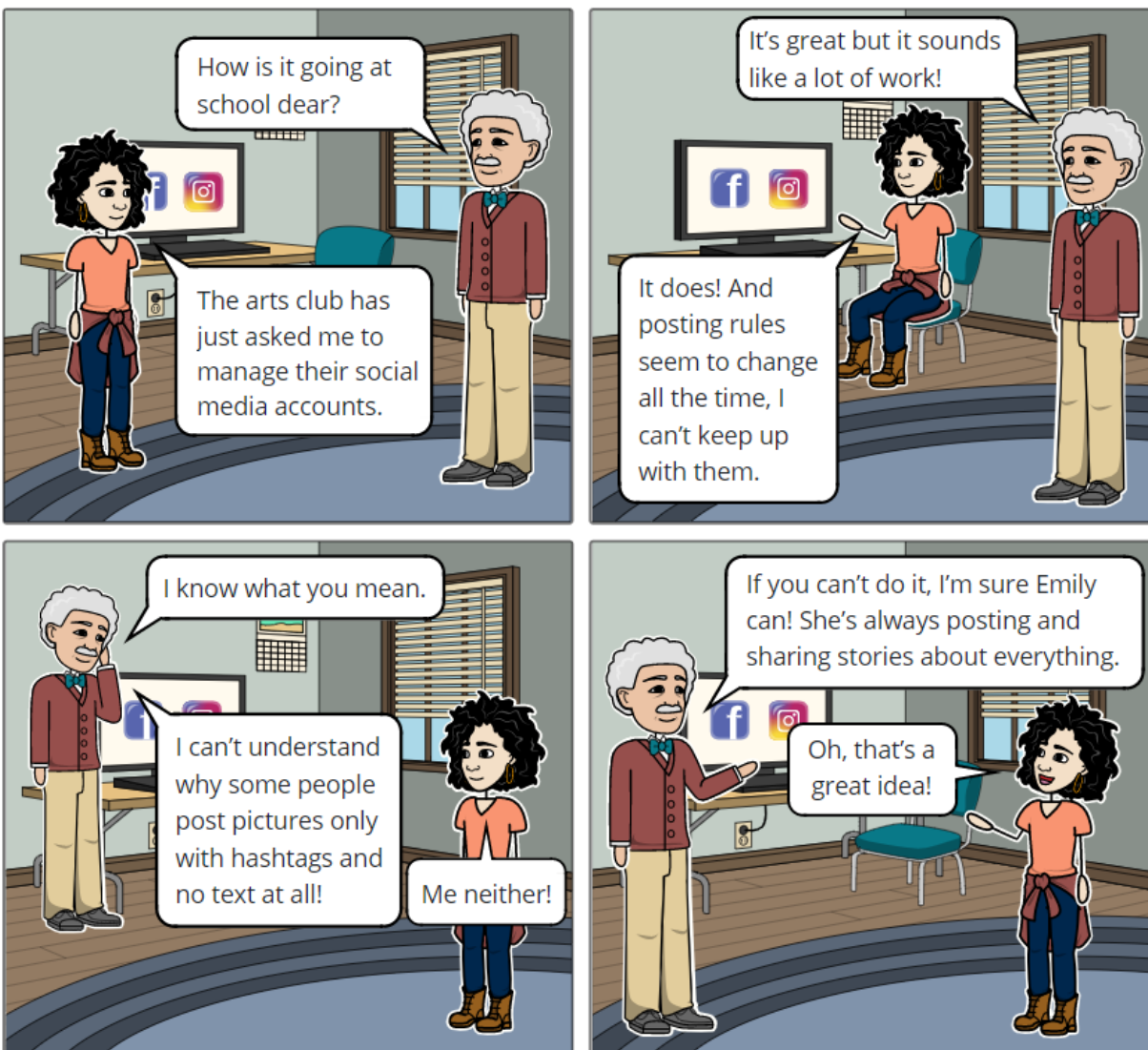
Table 2:

Word	Definition	Example
To comment (verb, noun)	To engage with the content seen by writing a reaction.	My grandmother commented on my last holiday photo saying I looked happy.
An emoji (noun)	A small image added to a message or a post to express an emotion, an idea.	Charlie often writes with a lot of emojis.
To follow (verb)	To subscribe to someone or something's page or channel by interest	Only twenty people follow Tim on Instagram.
A hashtag (noun)	A word or phrase preceded by the symbol "#". They are often used to identify a topic.	Kate used fifteen hashtags in her last post on Instagram.
To like (verb, noun)	To express a positive reaction to a publication by clicking on a specific button.	A hundred people liked the picture I posted yesterday!
A page (noun)	Part of a social media channel that is managed by an individual or an organisation, where they publish what they wish.	Our association's Facebook page is new and needs some more content to attract visitors.
A post (noun, verb)	An update, a photo or an item published on a social media channel.	You might get some angry comments under this post.



Word	Definition	Example
To react (verb)	To use predefined emojis or buttons to engage with the content.	Lots of people are reacting with a sad emoji to the journalist's post on yesterday's car accident.
To share (verb)	To reuse the content published by someone else on a personal channel.	Oscar shared Evan's photo on his Instagram page.
To tag (verb, noun)	To engage with other people in publications or comments by mentioning their name.	My brother tagged me in another cat video.
To tweet (verb, noun)	To publish a short post or remark on Twitter.	Ella spent the day tweeting about the concert she saw yesterday.

TASK 1: Read the following comic strip to identify the vocabulary in context, as well as more examples of sentences using “can”.



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Task 2: Describe one thing you can do and one thing you cannot do on 4 different social media. Try to think about different things you can and cannot do! Feel free to speak about different channels than the one indicated.



Example:

On Facebook, you can post pictures, organise events, and watch live streams. But you cannot send a lot of messages to people you are not friends with.

On Tik Tok:

On Twitter:

On Snapchat:

On Instagram:



III. Modification and differentiation ideas

- If you wish to raise the difficulty of the lesson, you can introduce the use of “could” and “be able to”.
- As a third exercise, you can launch a discussion on the risks of social media.
- On the contrary, if the vocabulary in the lesson seems too difficult for your students, you could take some time to demonstrate each/several words using a channel of your choice.

IV. References

Digital comic tools: <https://www.storyboardthat.com> and <http://www.canva.com>