UNIT 25

Can / Can't

Goal: say what you can't do with 못, what you do well with 잘, and ask if something is OK with 돼요?. Put the "can't" word right before the action.

Three big ideas.

1. **못 = can't.** It goes right before the action, in the same seat as 안 (Unit 22): 내일 못 가요.
2. **안 or 못?** 안 가요 = I choose not to go. 못 가요 = I can't go, something stops me. Also 잘 해요 = do it well, and 못 해요 = can't do it.
3. **Whole pieces:** 할 수 있어요 (I can) · 할 수 없어요 (I can't) · 돼요? (Is it OK?) · 안 돼요 (It's not OK).

Exercise 1 · Read out loud (no English!)

Read each row out loud, then tick the boxes. Your voice goes up at the end of every question.

Read 1	내일 못 가요. 오늘 못 만나요.	☐ ☐
Read 2	밥 못 먹어요. 못 자요.	☐ ☐
Read 3	한국어 못 해요. 수영 못 해요.	☐ ☐
Read 4	한국어 잘 해요. 요리 잘 해요.	☐ ☐
Read 5	할 수 있어요. 할 수 없어요.	☐ ☐
Read 6	갈 수 있어요? 카드 돼요?	☐ ☐
Read 7	사진 돼요? 현금 안 돼요.	☐ ☐

Exercise 2 · New words and pieces

Read each one out loud, then write the English. Word bank: **can't · well · cooking · swimming · photo · I can do it · I can't do it · it's OK**.

못	_____
잘	_____
요리	_____
수영	_____
사진	_____
할 수 있어요	_____
할 수 없어요	_____
돼요	_____

Five new words: 못 · 잘 · 요리 · 수영 · 사진. 할 수 있어요 and 할 수 없어요 are whole pieces. You know the endings: 있어요 and 없어요 (Unit 23).

Exercise 3 · 안 or 못?

Match each sentence with the reason. Write the letter.

안 가요.	_____	a. I can't go. I'm busy.
못 가요.	_____	b. I'm not going. I don't want to.

안 = you choose not to. 못 = something stops you. Both go right before the action.

Exercise 4 · Turn it around: say you can't

Write the sentence with 못 right before the action.

저는 학교에 가요. → _____

저는 영화를 봐요. → _____

저는 커피를 마셔요. → _____

Put the "can't" word right before the action.

Exercise 5 · Well or can't?

Write 잘 or 못 to match the English. Word bank: **잘** · **못**.

한국어	_____	해요.	I speak Korean well.
수영	_____	해요.	I can't swim.
요리	_____	해요.	I cook well.
한국어	_____	해요.	I can't speak Korean.

잘 해요 = do it well. 못 해요 = can't do it. Both sit right before 해요.

Exercise 6 · Ask if it's OK

Write the question: Is ___ OK? Word bank: **카드 · 현금 · 사진**.

(card) _____ 돼요?

(cash) _____ 돼요?

(photo) _____ 돼요?

카드 돼요? means “Is card OK?” or “Can I pay by card?” Answer: 네, 돼요. or 아니요, 안 돼요.

Exercise 7 · Answer the question

Answer each question in Korean. Use your own truth, or just play along.

한국어 해요?	(Say you speak it well.)	_____
내일 갈 수 있어요?	(Politely say you can't.)	_____
언제 갈 수 있어요?	(Say Saturday.)	_____
현금 돼요?	(Say no.)	_____

A polite no: 죄송합니다. 못 가요. A yes: 네, 갈 수 있어요. Examples: 한국어 잘 해요. · 죄송합니다. 못 가요. · 토요일에 갈 수 있어요.

Exercise 8 · New sentences! Decode, then read

These four sentences are **not** in the video. Read each one out loud, then write the English. Word bank: **I swim well.** · **I can't meet today.** · **Can you sing?** · **Cash isn't OK.**

수영 잘 해요. _____

오늘 못 만나요. _____

노래 할 수 있어요? _____

현금 안 돼요. _____

You know every piece: 수영 · 잘 · 못 · 할 수 있어요 · 안 돼요. The third one is a question: your voice goes up.

Exercise 9 · Quick quiz

1. Which word means “can't”?

A 못 **B** 안 **C** 잘

2. Which sentence means “I can't go tomorrow”?

A 내일 안 가요 **B** 내일 못 가요 **C** 내일 갈 수 있어요

3. How do you ask “Can I pay by card?”

A 카드 주세요? **B** 카드 얼마예요? **C** 카드 돼요?

4. Where does 못 go in the sentence?

A Right before the action **B** At the very start **C** After the action

5. Which piece means “I can do it”?

A 할 수 없어요 **B** 할 수 있어요 **C** 안 돼요

Unit 25 Master Check

- ☐ I know 못 means “can't” and goes right before the action
- ☐ I can tell 안 가요 (I choose not to) from 못 가요 (I can't)
- ☐ I can say 한국어 못 해요 and 한국어 잘 해요
- ☐ I know 할 수 있어요 means “I can do it”
- ☐ I can ask 카드 돼요?
- ☐ I can say 안 돼요 for “It's not OK”
- ☐ I can turn down one day and agree to another

Keep going: Pick one thing you can't do yet and say it out loud every day this week. Next up is Unit 26: where you're going, and what you're doing.

Answer Key

Check your work. Then read every answer out loud once more.

Exercise 2

못 = can't · 잘 = well · 요리 = cooking · 수영 = swimming · 사진 = photo · 할 수 있어요 = I can do it · 할 수 없어요 = I can't do it · 돼요 = it's OK

Exercise 3

1-b · 2-a

Exercise 4

저는 학교에 못 가요. · 저는 영화를 못 봐요. · 저는 커피를 못 마셔요.

Exercise 5

한국어 잘 해요. · 수영 못 해요. · 요리 잘 해요. · 한국어 못 해요.

Exercise 6

카드 돼요? · 현금 돼요? · 사진 돼요?

Exercise 7

Examples: 한국어 잘 해요. · 죄송합니다. 못 가요. · 토요일에 갈 수 있어요. · 아니요, 안 돼요.
Your own answers may differ.

Exercise 8

수영 잘 해요. = I swim well. · 오늘 못 만나요. = I can't meet today. · 노래 할 수 있어요? = Can you sing? · 현금 안 돼요. = Cash isn't OK.

Exercise 9

1. A (못) · 2. B (내일 못 가요) · 3. C (카드 돼요?) · 4. A (right before the action) · 5. B (할 수 있어요)

Some answers depend on your own pronunciation. Compare your voice with the native-speaker audio in the video.