Activity Type
Reading, listening and speaking activity

Language Focus
Modal verbs of ability
'Can you...?'
'Yes, I can'. 'No, I can't'.

Aim
To ask and answer questions about abilities and to prove the things you say you can do.

Preparation
Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level
Elementary

Time
25 minutes

Introduction
In this entertaining worksheet activity, students try to complete mind-body coordination tasks, body teasers and fun speaking exercises to prove their abilities.

Procedure
Give each student a copy of the worksheet.
Go through the language on the worksheet and make sure the students understand each ability.
Demonstrate the activity by writing the first item on the board and adding a 'Name' column beside it.
Ask a student in the class 'Can you pat your head and rub your stomach at the same time?'
If the student answers 'No, I can't', repeat the question with other students until one of them says 'Yes, I can'.
Then, ask the student to prove their ability. If the student can complete the task, write the student's name in the 'Name' column on the board. If not, find another student who can.
Once the students understand the idea, let them begin the activity.
The students then move around the classroom asking 'Can you...?' questions from the prompts on the worksheet.
When a classmate answers 'Yes, I can', the student asks them to prove their ability.
If the classmate can complete the task, the student writes their name in the 'Name' column and moves on to speak to someone else.
It is important to tell the students that they can only have the same name once. This is to encourage them to speak to as many different partners as possible.
When everyone has finished, invite students to demonstrate their abilities to the class.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can you...</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>... pat your head and rub your stomach at the same time?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... raise one eyebrow?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>... draw a straight line without a ruler?</td>
<td>☻</td>
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<tr>
<td>... spin around five times and then walk in a straight line?</td>
<td>☹</td>
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<tr>
<td>... draw a square and a circle at the same time?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>... snap your fingers?</td>
<td>☺</td>
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<tr>
<td>... stick up your thumb and point at it with your other hand, then switch hands?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>... remember all your classmates’ names?</td>
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<tr>
<td>... introduce yourself in English?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>... say the alphabet backwards?</td>
<td>Z Y X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... make a paper airplane?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... sing a song in English?</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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