

know, understand, know how to

Understanding facts and skills

6 Exercises · Duration: 20 min.

A bad day

English

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Understanding facts and skills

Know expresses a fact or familiarity: **I know the answer, I know Jack. Understand** expresses grasping the meaning: **I understand the question.** These usually use simple present in this sense, not a continuous form.

A skill can use **can**: **I can swim.** Another pattern is **know how to** plus base verb: **I know how to swim.** Keep the whole expression rather than treating English know as one pattern for every situation.

A short fact clause can use **that**: **I know that Milo is here.** In ordinary speech **that** is often omitted: **I know Milo is here.**

Form	Example	Meaning
know	I know Jack.	Say Jack is familiar to you.
understand	I understand the question.	Say you grasp the question's meaning.
to	I know how to swim.	Complete the learned-skill pattern.
that	I know that Milo is here.	Link a known fact with an optional content word.
swim	I can swim.	Express a swimming skill.
don't	I don't understand.	Say the meaning is unclear.

I know Jack.

Say Jack is familiar to you.

I understand the question.

Say you grasp the question's meaning.

I know how to swim.

Complete the learned-skill pattern.

I know that Milo is here.

Link a known fact with an optional content word.

I can swim.

Express a swimming skill.

I don't understand.

Say the meaning is unclear.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE PATTERNS

Underline the form described in this unit.

1 I know Jack.

Meaning: Say Jack is familiar to you.

2 I understand the question.

Meaning: Say you grasp the question's meaning.

3 I know how to swim.

Meaning: Complete the learned-skill pattern.

4 I know that Milo is here.

Meaning: Link a known fact with an optional content word.

5 I can swim.

Meaning: Express a swimming skill.

6 I don't understand.

Meaning: Say the meaning is unclear.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 I _____ Jack.

- ☐ A knowing
- ☐ B know
- ☐ C am knowing

Meaning: Say Jack is familiar to you.

2 I _____ the question.

- ☐ A am understanding
- ☐ B understand
- ☐ C understanding

Meaning: Say you grasp the question's meaning.

3 I know how _____ swim.

- ☐ A to
- ☐ B at
- ☐ C for

Meaning: Complete the learned-skill pattern.

4 I know _____ Milo is here.

- ☐ A where
- ☐ B that
- ☐ C who

Meaning: Link a known fact with an optional content word.

5 I can _____.

- ☐ A swims
- ☐ B to swim
- ☐ C swim

Meaning: Express a swimming skill.

6 I _____ understand.

- ☐ A doesn't
- ☐ B isn't
- ☐ C don't

Meaning: Say the meaning is unclear.

G3) COMPLETE A SHORT MESSAGE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

am knowing know

I _____ Jack.

Meaning: Say Jack is familiar to you.

am understanding understand

I _____ the question.

Meaning: Say you grasp the question's meaning.

for to

I know how _____ swim.

Meaning: Complete the learned-skill pattern.

who that

I know _____ Milo is here.

Meaning: Link a known fact with an optional content word.

to swim swim

I can _____.

Meaning: Express a swimming skill.

doesn't don't

I _____ understand.

Meaning: Say the meaning is unclear.

G4) BUILD USEFUL SENTENCES

Put the words in order.

1 I know Jack.

Meaning: Say Jack is familiar to you.

2 I the question. understand

Meaning: Say you grasp the question's meaning.

3 how know swim. I to

Meaning: Complete the learned-skill pattern.

4 I know here. that is Milo

Meaning: Link a known fact with an optional content word.

5 swim. can I

Meaning: Express a swimming skill.

6 don't I understand.

Meaning: Say the meaning is unclear.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 Say Jack is familiar to you. You say:

- ☐ A I know Jack.
- ☐ B I am knowing Jack.

2 Say you grasp the question's meaning. You say:

- ☐ A I am understanding the question.
- ☐ B I understand the question.

3 Complete the learned-skill pattern. You say:

- ☐ A I know how for swim.
- ☐ B I know how to swim.

4 Link a known fact with an optional content word. You say:

- ☐ A I know that Milo is here.
- ☐ B I know who Milo is here.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ① I can swim. | Ⓐ Express a swimming skill. |
| ② I understand the question. | Ⓑ Complete the learned-skill pattern. |
| ③ I know how to swim. | Ⓒ Say you grasp the question's meaning. |
| ④ I don't understand. | Ⓓ Say Jack is familiar to you. |
| ⑤ I know Jack. | Ⓔ Link a known fact with an optional content word. |
| ⑥ I know that Milo is here. | Ⓕ Say the meaning is unclear. |