

SCENE 29 • GRAMMAR

Saan, võin, oskan

Ability, possibility and permission

6 Exercises · Duration: 20 min.

Around town

Estonian

Read & listen online



Ability, possibility and permission

Saama means can or be able in context: **saan, saad, saab, saame, saate, saavad**. **Võima** often gives permission or possibility: **võin, võid, võib, võime, võite, võivad**. Both take the **da** infinitive: **saan aidata, võin tulla**.

A learned skill uses **oskama**: **oskan ujuda**. **Teadma** is facts, **tundma** is people, and **oskama** is know how. The same English can does not require one Estonian verb in every situation.

Person	saama	Meaning
mina	saan	I — can
sina	saad	you, familiar singular — can
tema	saab	he/she — can
meie	saame	we — can
teie	saate	you, plural/polite — can
nemad	saavad	they — can

Ma saan aidata.

I can help.

Sa saad tulla.

You can come.

Ta saab tulla.

He/she can come.

Me saame aidata.

We can help.

Te saate tulla.

You can come, polite/plural.

Nad saavad tulla.

They can come.

Mina olen Lena (Lukas). Te saate tulla.

I am Lena. You can come, polite/plural.

Mina olen Lena (Lukas). Nad saavad tulla.

I am Lena. They can come.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN

Underline the form practised in this unit.

1 Ma saan aidata.

Meaning: I can help.

2 Sa saad tulla.

Meaning: You can come.

3 Ta saab tulla.

Meaning: He/she can come.

4 Me saame aidata.

Meaning: We can help.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM 1

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Ma _____ aidata.

- ☐ A saad
- ☐ B saate
- ☐ C saan

Meaning: I can help.

2 Sa _____ tulla.

- ☐ A saan
- ☐ B saame
- ☐ C saad

Meaning: You can come.

3 Ta _____ tulla.

- ☐ A saab
- ☐ B saavad
- ☐ C saan

Meaning: He/she can come.

4 Me _____ aidata.

- ☐ A saate
- ☐ B saame
- ☐ C saan

Meaning: We can help.

5 Te _____ tulla.

- ☐ A saad
- ☐ B saate
- ☐ C saan

Meaning: You can come, polite/plural.

6 Nad _____ tulla.

- ☐ A saame
- ☐ B saan
- ☐ C saavad

Meaning: They can come.

7 Mina olen Lena. Te _____ tulla.

- ☐ A saate
- ☐ B saad
- ☐ C saan

Meaning: I am Lena. You can come, polite/plural.

8 Mina olen Lena. Nad _____ tulla.

- ☐ A saan
- ☐ B saame
- ☐ C saavad

Meaning: I am Lena. They can come.

G3) USE THE FORM 1

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

saame saan saab saad

Ma _____ aidata.

Meaning: I can help.

saan saame saad saab

Sa _____ tulla.

Meaning: You can come.

saad saan saab saame

Ta _____ tulla.

Meaning: He/she can come.

saad saan saame saab

Me _____ aidata.

Meaning: We can help.

saab saate saad saan

Te _____ tulla.

Meaning: You can come, polite/plural.

saab saad saan saavad

Nad _____ tulla.

Meaning: They can come.

saate saan saad saab

Mina olen Lena. Te _____ tulla.

Meaning: I am Lena. You can come, polite/plural.

saad saab saavad saan

Mina olen Lena. Nad _____ tulla.

Meaning: I am Lena. They can come.

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

- 1 saan aidata. Ma

Meaning: I can help.

- 2 saad tulla. Sa

Meaning: You can come.

- 3 tulla. Ta saab

Meaning: He/she can come.

- 4 saame aidata. Me

Meaning: We can help.

5 tulla. saate Te

Meaning: You can come, polite/plural.

6 tulla. saavad Nad

Meaning: They can come.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 I can help. You say:

- ☐ A Ma saan aidata.
- ☐ B Ma saad aidata.

2 You can come. You say:

- ☐ A Sa saad tulla.
- ☐ B Sa saan tulla.

3 He/she can come. You say:

- ☐ A Ta saan tulla.
- ☐ B Ta saab tulla.

4 We can help. You say:

- ☐ A Me saame aidata.
- ☐ B Me saan aidata.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ① Sa saad tulla. | Ⓐ He/she can come. |
| ② Mina olen Lena.
Nad saavad tulla. | Ⓑ We can help. |
| ③ Ta saab tulla. | Ⓒ I am Lena. You can come,
polite/plural. |
| ④ Nad saavad tulla. | Ⓓ I am Lena. They can come. |
| ⑤ Mina olen Lena. Te
saate tulla. | Ⓔ I can help. |
| ⑥ Ma saan aidata. | Ⓕ They can come. |
| ⑦ Te saate tulla. | Ⓖ You can come. |
| ⑧ Me saame aidata. | Ⓗ You can come, polite/plural. |