

17. Otro color - The Learning Section

Grammar

SAYING 'MAY I? YOU CAN'

Essential conversational words are 'puedo', 'puedes' and 'puede'

They come from the verb 'poder', to be able to, and are usually translated as 'can' or 'may'

poder	to be able to
-------	---------------

In a shop, for instance: '¿Le puedo ayudar?' May I help you? Or as a recommendation: 'Puedes ver la ciudad'. You can see the city.

Let's run through the different forms of 'poder'.

puedo	I can
puedes	you (informal) can
puede	you (formal), he/she/it can

'Puede', he, she or it can and the formal way of saying 'you can': '¿Puede firmar aquí?' Can you sign here?

podemos	we can
---------	--------

'Podemos ir al Sur'. We can go to the South.

podéis	you can (informal, plural)
pueden	you (formal), they can

'Podéis tomar el ascensor' You can take the lift (informal). 'Pueden tomar el ascensor' You can take the lift (formal). Or they can take the lift