FIRST STEPS ENGLISH FOR BEGINNERS

Vocabulary and Grammar Guide

Episode 1 The Last Bus | A Chance for Maya

Use this guide after you listen. The examples are simple, but they are real English you can use in a new place, at school, at home, or when you travel.

Two phrases to keep

These two phrases can help you in many real situations.

Can you help me?

Simple meaning: I need help. This is a polite, direct question.

In the episode: Maya asks Leo, “Can you help me?”

New example: At a station: “Can you help me find my bus?”

Common difficulty: Do not say “Can help me?” You need *you*: “Can **you** help me?”

Of course.

Simple meaning: Yes, certainly. I am happy to help.

In the episode: Leo says “Of course” before he goes with Maya.

New example: “Can you open the window?” “Of course.”

Common difficulty: It is a complete friendly answer. You do not need to add *yes*.

More useful words from the story

the last bus

Meaning: the final bus service tonight; after it, there are no more buses

Episode example: “Is that the last bus?”

New example: “Hurry. The last bus leaves at eleven.”

Remember: *last* here is about time, not the bus at the back of a line.

I missed it

Meaning: I was too late, so I did not catch it

Episode example: “Oh... I missed it.”

New example: “I missed the train because I was late.”

Remember: Use *missed* for a bus, train, class, or appointment.

I was worried

Meaning: I did not feel calm because I thought there could be a problem

Episode example: “Thank you. I was worried.”

New example: “I was worried because my phone was not in my bag.”

Remember: This talks about a feeling in the past.

locked and closed

Meaning: *closed* means not open. *locked* means a lock stops the door from opening.

Episode example: “But the door is locked.”

New example: “The shop is closed, but the side door is not locked.”

Pronunciation: *locked* has one syllable. Finish with a clear /t/ sound: lock-t.

Grammar in the story

A simple question with can

Can + person + base verb? is a useful way to ask for help.

Question	Meaning
Can you help me?	I need your help.
Can you show me the station?	Please show me the station.
Can you open the door?	Please open the door.

> ***Common error:*** *Do not use to after can. Say “Can you help me?” not “Can you to help me?”*

Try it

Write or say the missing words. Check the answers below.

1. _____ you help me find the café?
2. The door is _____. I need a key.
3. I _____ the bus. I was too late.
4. “Can you show me the street?” “_____ course.”
5. The shop is _____ at night. It is not open.
6. Maya was _____. She did not feel calm.
7. “I am new _____.” means I arrived recently.
8. The final bus tonight is the _____ bus.
9. “Can you _____ the door?” asks a person to open it.
10. “I need a _____.” means I need something to open the lock.

Answers

1. Can
2. locked
3. missed
4. Of
5. closed
6. worried
7. here
8. last
9. open
10. key

Next time

Maya and Leo look for the note. Listen for the address and the new clue.