Can or Must?

Sort abilities and required actions.

4.W.6.b.III "Using modal auxiliaries (e.g., can, may, must)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ABILITY	REQUIRED ACTION
Use can to tell what someone is able to do. It does not say the action is required. A dolphin can leap high.	Use must to tell what someone is required to do. The action is not a choice. On this trail, hikers must carry water.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle ABLE or NEEDED; then choose two numbered sentences and explain how you knew for Part 2.

1.	Nina can balance on one foot.	ABLE NEEDED
2.	A fox can hear a mouse nearby.	ABLE NEEDED
3.	On this team, players must arrive by noon.	ABLE NEEDED
4.	Leo can fold a paper crane.	ABLE NEEDED
5.	Before the trip, campers must pack a lunch.	ABLE NEEDED
6.	In the library, visitors must use quiet voices.	ABLE NEEDED
7.	A bee can find flowers by smell.	ABLE NEEDED
8.	Pia can whistle a tune.	ABLE NEEDED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence with can to show an ability and one with must to show a required action.

ABLE _____

NEEDED _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about the same activity: one telling what someone can do and one telling what someone must do.

ANSWER KEY

Can or Must?

GRADE 4 · 4.W.6.b.III

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Nina can balance on one foot.	**ABLE**	Can tells what Nina is able to do.
2	A fox can hear a mouse nearby.	**ABLE**	Can tells what a fox is able to do.
3	On this team, players must arrive by noon.	**NEEDED**	Must tells what the team requires.
4	Leo can fold a paper crane.	**ABLE**	Can tells what Leo is able to do.
5	Before the trip, campers must pack a lunch.	**NEEDED**	Must tells what campers are required to pack.
6	In the library, visitors must use quiet voices.	**NEEDED**	Must tells what visitors are required to do.
7	A bee can find flowers by smell.	**ABLE**	Can tells what a bee is able to do.
8	Pia can whistle a tune.	**ABLE**	Can tells what Pia is able to do.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **ABLE**: Omar can skip rope.
- **NEEDED**: At the museum, guests must stay behind the line.

Challenge: At the art fair, Sam can paint a poster. Sam must clean the brushes afterward.

The sort answers are ABLE, ABLE, NEEDED, ABLE, NEEDED, NEEDED, ABLE, ABLE. For Part 2, explanations should connect can to ability or must to a required action.