Can and Can't

“I can’t” is a sluggard too lazy to work:  
From Duty he shrinks, every task he will shirk;  
No Bread on his board, and no meal in his bag;  
His house is a ruin, his coat is a rag.

“I can” is a worker; he tills the broad fields,  
And digs from the earth all the wealth that it yields;  
The hum of his spindles begins with the light,  
And the fires of his forges are blazing all night.

MEMORY EXERCISE: Require students to learn this piece by heart, and call on each, in turn, to recite it.

SLATE WORK: Close the book and write the first stanza from memory; then compare with the book, and correct your errors in spelling, capitals, and punctuation.

From: A.L. Bancroft & Co., 1883

How should the word I be written?  
Fill in the blanks:

1. I------going now.
2. Where----------I?

Fill the following blanks with was or were:

1. I------ in town all last week.
2. You ------- too late.
3. James-------- writing a letter.
4. My sisters------ out riding.
5. The runaway--------captured.

From: Elementary Lessons in English, 1899
1. If a steamer sails 11 miles an hour, how long will it be in sailing 55 miles?

   *Solution* – *One hour = 11 miles. Divide 55 miles by 11. It will take 5 hours.*

2. A lady gave 6 cents for needles, 12 cents for thread and 10 cents for muslin; what was the cost of all?

3. If I have 12 pencils, and find 5 more, how many pencils will I then have?

4. A saddle cost 8 dollars and a set of harness 13 dollars; how much did they both cost?