

Skill **sounding polite**

It's important to sound polite in English, especially when you say something negative.

- Use intonation to express yourself. Flat intonation can sound rude.
- Apologize before you say something negative.
- Use longer phrases and give explanations.

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A  **8.14** Read the Skill box. Listen to six conversations and check (✓) the response that sounds more polite: a or b.

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|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Tom, could you help me with this box? It's really heavy. | a ☐ | b ☐ |
| 2 Do you feel like going to the movies tonight? | a ☐ | b ☐ |
| 3 So what did your boss think of the designs? | a ☐ | b ☐ |
| 4 Would you like to go for coffee after class? | a ☐ | b ☐ |
| 5 Wow! That new jacket looks great on you. | a ☐ | b ☐ |
| 6 Would you be interested in seeing my band play tomorrow evening? | a ☐ | b ☐ |