

93 Requests and permission

A Requests and responses

Requests (in the classroom)	Responses
Can you bring ¹ the dictionaries here, please?	✓ Yes, of course.
Could you finish this exercise for homework, please?	Sure. Yeah, no problem.
Yuri, could you take ² these books to the library?	X (No), I'm afraid I can't.
Elena, can you change places with Gabi, please?	
Could you lend me a pen, Oleg?	
Please make sure you put the books back .	

SPOTLIGHT being polite

In English, it is **polite** to say **please** when you ask a person for something, and to say **thank you** if the person says yes.

I'm afraid is a polite way to say **no**, and to say you are sorry about something.

■ **I'm afraid** I can't come this evening.

■ Can you come this evening? ~ **I'm afraid not**.

Can and **could** are both used for requests. **Could** is a bit more polite.

GLOSSARY



1 bring

2 take

request

asking for sth in a polite way

response

an answer to sb or sth **respond** v

finish

do/complete the last part of sth

change places

e.g. Elena sits in Gabi's seat, and Gabi sits in Elena's seat

lend

give sth to sb to use for a short time

make sure (you do sth)

be certain (that you do sth)

put sth back

return sth to its place

I'm afraid I can't

= I'm sorry, but I can't. (NOT ~~I'm afraid but I can't~~.)

1 Complete the dialogues with one word in each space.

- Can you clean the board, please ?
- 1 Can _____ lend _____ a pen, please? ~ Yes, of _____.
- 2 Could you _____ the books here, _____? ~ Yeah, no _____.
- 3 _____ you lend me some money? ~ No, I'm _____ not. I don't have any.
- 4 Is it _____ to say **please** and **thank you** in English? ~ Yes, it is.
- 5 Do you often use **sure** and **no problem**? ~ Yes, they're common _____ to requests in English.
- 6 Can I _____ this book home tonight? ~ Yes, but please _____ it back tomorrow.
- 7 I must _____ sure I remember Katya's book next week.
- 8 Do you use **can** and **could** for _____ in English? ~ Yes. **Could** is a bit more _____.
- 9 We have to _____ all the books back on the shelf when we finish the lesson.

2 Write requests and responses using **can** and **could**, and different responses.

- put / books / over there

A Could you put these books over there, please?

B Yes, sure.

- 1 finish / exercise / homework

A _____

B _____

- 2 Luca / change places / Maria

A _____

B _____

- 3 bring / notebook / tomorrow

A _____

B _____

- 4 lend / pencil

A _____

B _____

- 5 take / books / library

A _____

B _____

- 6 finish / essay / Monday

A _____

B _____



TEST YOURSELF

B Asking for and giving permission



SPOTLIGHT **lend** and **borrow**

If you **borrow** a pen **from** someone, you use their pen, then give it back.

If you **lend** someone a pen, or **lend** a pen **to** someone, you give them your pen to use for a short time.

■ **Could I borrow your pen?** = **Could you lend me your pen?**

GLOSSARY

permission	allowing sb to do sth; telling them it is OK to do sth: <i>She gave me permission to leave class early.</i>
go ahead / that's fine	You say go ahead or that's fine when you give sb permission to do sth. ALSO of course / no problem
all right	OK
Do you mind if ...?	= Is it a problem for you if ...? (The answer No, go ahead means 'It's not a problem'.)

3 Write new sentences. Change **only** the bold words. The meaning must stay the same.

- ▶ Can we sit down? Is it OK if we sit down?
- 1 Is it **OK** if I use this dictionary?
- 2 **Is it OK** if I make a coffee?
- 3 **Can I** stay for another ten minutes?
- 4 Is it OK **to** close the window?
- 5 Can **you lend me** your book?
- 6 Can I sit here? ~ Yes, **of course**.
- 7 Can I use the computer? ~ I'm **sorry but** I need it.
- 8 Is it OK if I have my coffee here? ~ Yes, **sure**.

4 Ask for permission in these situations. Use the word in CAPITALS.

- ▶ You want to sit near the window. CAN Can I sit near the window?
- 1 You want to go at one o'clock today. MIND ..?
- 2 You want to borrow a piece of paper. COULD ..?
- 3 You want to go to the toilet. OK ..?
- 4 You want to sit in a different seat. ALL RIGHT ..?
- 5 You want somebody to lend you a pen. CAN ..?

5 Find five more responses in the box to the question below.

no	ahead	fine	afraid	problem	of	I	it
need	sure ✓	that's	yes ✓	go	I'm	course	

Could I possibly borrow your car tomorrow?

▶ Yes. sure.

- 1
- 2
- 3

- 4
- 5



TEST YOURSELF