

Scenario 1: Interrupting a colleague politely

You want to interrupt a colleague who is speaking, but you want to sound incredibly polite and respectful.

"Excuse me, Sarah. [May / Must] I interrupt for just a second? I think we [might / should] have an alternative option to consider."

Scenario 2: Giving professional advice

You are the lead data analyst. You want to give a confident recommendation based on the scientific data you found.

"Based on our latest research on screen time, we [should / could] absolutely reduce our app's notification frequency. We [need to / may] prioritize user health if we want long-term retention."

Scenario 3: Disagreeing softly with a manager

Your manager suggests launching a heavy video feature. You disagree because it might cause technical issues, but you want to sound collaborative, not defensive.

"That's an interesting idea, but a video feature [could / must] cause sensory overload for younger users."

We [might want to / can] test this with a small group first."

Scenario 4: Asking about hard boundaries

You are checking what is legally or financially impossible for the company to do.

"John, [can / should] we legally launch this app in the US market next month, or [must / might] we wait for regulatory approval?"