93 Requests and permission

A Requests and responses

Requests (in the classroom)	Responses
Can you bring[1] the dictionaries here, **please?**	✓ Yes, **of course**. **Sure**. Yeah, **no problem**.
Could you finish this exercise for homework, **please?**	
Yuri, **could you take**[2] these books to the library?	
Elena, can you **change places** with Gabi, **please?**	✗ (No), **I'm afraid I can't**.
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 .....

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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: *She gave me **permission** to leave class early.*
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 ....

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