

Offers / requests / suggestions / permission



Would/ could /shall

are often used when you want to:

1. **Make polite offers** (instead of 'Do you want?')
Would you like to see the menu?
2. **Make polite requests** (instead of imperatives - Give me a bill.)
Could you get us a cloth, please?
3. **Ask for permission** (instead of 'Is it OK if I?')
Could I change the baby somewhere?
4. **Make suggestions** (instead of 'How about - ing....?')
Shall we leave a tip?



Exercise 1 Complete the questions with *would / could / shall*

- 1 A: we just have a jug of tap water please?
B: I'm afraid not, madam. You have to buy a bottle.
- 2 A: we get the bill?
B: Yeah, it's getting late and I'm tired.
- 3 A: we have a half portion for the kids?
B: Of course, sir.
- 4 A: you like to see the drinks list, madam?
B: No thanks. we just have two mineral waters?
- 5 A: we ring them and book a table?
B: That's a good idea. They get quite busy.
- 6 A: you move your chair a little so I can get past?
B: I'll get up. It's very tight in here.
- 7 A: you like me to order for everyone?
B: Yes, if you don't mind. There's so much to choose from.
- 8 A: we get a taxi or do you want to walk?
B: Let's walk – it's a lovely night. It's so warm.

Exercise 2 Use *would, could or shall* and the words in brackets to rewrite 1–8 as questions with the same meaning.

- 1 Do you want more of anything? (like)
- 2 Is it OK if I close the window? (I)
- 3 How about going for a Thai meal? (we)
- 4 Pour me some water. (you)
- 5 Is it OK if we wait till our friend arrives? (we)
- 6 Do you want me to hang your coat up? (me)
- 7 Do you want me to pay with my card? (I)
- 8 Turn down the air conditioning. (mind)

By Mary Mulyarchik