# 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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