

# 93 Requests and permission

## A Requests and responses

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

### 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

<b>permission</b>	allowing sb to do sth; telling them it is OK to do sth: <i>She gave me permission to leave class early.</i>
<b>go ahead / that's fine</b>	You say <b>go ahead</b> or <b>that's fine</b> when you give sb permission to do sth. ALSO <b>of course</b> / <b>no problem</b>
<b>all right</b>	OK
<b>Do you mind if ...?</b>	= Is it a problem for you if ...? (The answer <b>No, go ahead</b> 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