

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?	X (No), I'm afraid I can't.
Could you lend me a pen, Oleg?	
Please make sure you put the books back.	

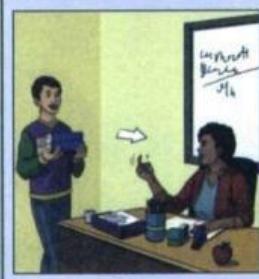
SPOTLIGHT being polite

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	
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, ?
- 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

permission	allowing sb to do sth; telling them it is OK to do sth. <i>She gave me permission to leave class early.</i>
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 4
2 5
3
4
5

TEST YOURSELF