

A

Requests and replies



A: Could you pass the salt?



B: Sure. / No problem.



A: Could you possibly help me?



B: Yes, of course.



A: Naomi, I wonder if you could help me?



B: Sure.



A: I was wondering if you could lend me some money until tomorrow.



B: No, I'm afraid I can't. [I'm sorry but I can't.]

Language help

As the requests become bigger it is normal to use longer phrases which sound more **polite**.

B

Asking permission and replies



A: Could I possibly have a look at your magazine?



B: Yes, help yourself.



A: May / Could I open the window?



B: Sure, go ahead.



A: Do you mind if I watch TV?



B: No, go ahead.

Language help

When we answer **go ahead** or **help yourself**, we are giving someone permission to do the thing they have asked.

C

Suggestions and replies

We **could** try that new restaurant.

What **shall we** do tonight?

Let's go to the café in the square.

Do you fancy listening to some music?
[do you want to; *infrm*]

How about going to a club?

I don't mind. You choose.

Why don't we go and see a film?



We can reply with different answers, from positive to negative.

Yeah, **(that's a) great idea**.
That **sounds good**.

Yes, **if you like**.
Yeah, **I don't mind**.

No, **I don't fancy that**.
Mm, **I'd rather** do something else.
[I would prefer to do something else.]

Exercises

66.1 Correct six more mistakes in the dialogue.

- A: ~~Do~~ you like to go out this evening? *Would*
 B: I'm afraid but I haven't got any money.
 A: That's OK. I'll pay. How about go to see a film?
 B: No, I think I'd rather to stay in. I have to do some homework.
 A: Why you don't do your homework this afternoon?
 B: I'm busy this afternoon.
 A: Well, we could to go tomorrow.
 B: Yeah, it's a great idea.

66.2 Match 1–6 with a–f.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Could you close the door? | ☒ | a a suggestion |
| 2 May I close the window? | ☐ | b a negative reply |
| 3 We could go to the cinema. | ☐ | c a request |
| 4 Yeah, great idea. | ☐ | d asking for permission |
| 5 I wonder if you could close the door? | ☐ | e a positive reply |
| 6 I don't fancy that. | ☐ | f a polite request |

66.3 Complete the dialogues with one word. Contractions (e.g. *don't*) count as one word.

- A: What *would* you like to do this weekend?
 B: I don't You decide.
- A: Could you open that window? It's very hot in here.
 B: Yes, of
- A: I was if you could give me a lift to Luke's this evening.
 B: Sure, no
- A: What do you doing this evening?
 B: I don't Any ideas?
 A: Why we go to the cinema? We haven't been for ages.
 B: Yeah, that's a great
- A: Do you if I use your phone?
 B: No, go
- A: OK. Where we go on Saturday?
 B: How going to the beach if the weather's nice?
 A: Yeah. Or we try that new sports centre just outside town.
 B: Mmm. I think I'd go to the beach.
 A: Yes, OK, if you

66.4 Reply to the questions. Try to give a different answer each time.

- Could I borrow your pen for a minute? *Yes, sure.*
- Could you possibly post a letter for me?
- I was wondering if you've got a suitcase you could lend me?
- Do you mind if I take this chair?
- I've got some tickets for a concert. Do you fancy going?
- How about going to a football match at the weekend?
- Why don't we meet this afternoon and practise our English?