



## Mini-lesson 44: Polite Requests and Offers (Would, Could, May)

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### Why Use Polite Language?

Using polite language helps you sound respectful, friendly, and professional in English. Words like **would**, **could**, and **may** make your requests and offers softer and more polite.

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### Making Polite Requests

We use these expressions when asking someone to do something:

#### Would you...?

- **Would you open** the window, please?
- **Would you mind** helping me?

#### Could you...? / Could I...?

- **Could you pass** the salt?
- **Could I borrow** your pen?

#### May I...? (*more formal*)

- **May I come** in?
  - **May I ask** a question?
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## ◆ Making Polite Offers

We use **Would you like...?** or **Can I...?** to offer help or something nice.

### ✓ Would you like...?

- **Would you like** some coffee?
- **Would you like** to sit down?

### ✓ Can I...? / May I...? (*offering to do something*)

- **Can I help** you with your bags?
- **May I offer** you a drink?

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## Practice 1: Fill in the Blank

Choose: **would**, **could**, or **may**.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I borrow your phone for a minute?
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ you like some tea or coffee?
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ you help me carry these books, please?
  4. \_\_\_\_\_ I ask you a personal question?
  5. \_\_\_\_\_ I offer you a seat?
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## Practice 2: Rewrite to Be More Polite

Rewrite the sentences to sound more polite.

1. Give me a pen.
  2. Help me with this box.
  3. I want to sit here.
  4. Lend me your book.
  5. Come with me now.
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## Practice 3: Make Your Own Requests or Offers

Write your own polite requests and offers using the prompts below.

- Ask a classmate for a pencil.
  - Offer your seat to someone on the bus.
  - Ask a friend to close the window.
  - Offer to help carry someone's bag.
  - Ask your teacher if you can leave early.
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## Answer Key

### Practice 1:

1. Could
2. Would
3. Could
4. May
5. May

### Practice 2:

1. **Could I please have a pen? / Would you give me a pen, please?**
2. **Could you help me with this box, please?**
3. **May I sit here?**
4. **Could you lend me your book?**
5. **Would you come with me, please?**

(Other polite rewrites are possible; these are just examples.)