



# Making polite requests

- Modal verbs
- Requesting politely
- Formal/informal questions

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We use modals when we make a request or ask for permission.

**Can you** and **will you** are used to make requests but they are **more informal**:

**Can you do me a favour? (informal)**

**Will you lend me your dictionary? (informal)**



***Could you*** and ***would you***  
***are more polite(formal):***

***Could you*** say Goodbye to  
your mum for me? (**more  
polite**)

***Would you*** translate this  
for me, please? (**extremely  
polite**)

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Positive answers:

***Yes, sure. / Yes, of course. /  
Certainly.***

Avoid a direct “No” in the  
negative answer. Instead use:

***I`m sorry, I ....***

***I`m afraid I ....***

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***Can you pass the salt?***

***Sure!***

***Would you lend me your pen, please?***

***Certainly, Sir! Here you are.***

***Could I ask you the time, please?***

***No problem. It's quarter past four.***

***Will you give me your phone number?***

***Yeah, right away!***



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*P*

***Can you spell this word?***

***Well, I'm not sure.***

***Could you lend me your ladder, please?***

***I'm sorry, I need it myself.***

***Will you search that brochure for me?***

***I'm afraid I can't.***

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Fill in with **can/could/will/would**:

*.....you please sign an autograph for me?*

*Mum, ..... you wake me at seven o'clock?*

*..... you buy tickets for me as well, Mike?*

*Madam, .....you show me your driving license, please?*

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Provide **positive** and **negative** answers for the following:

1. Can you lend me your mouse?
2. Could you show me the way to the city centre, please?



Thank

you

