

3

Could you do me a favor?

1 SNAPSHOT

FAVORS PEOPLE DISLIKE BEING ASKED

Could you ... ?

- lend me some money
- let me see your class notes
- lend me your hairbrush
- drive me to the airport
- let me use your car
- help me move into a new apartment
- take care of my pet while I'm away
- let me stay at your home for a while



Source: Interviews with people between the ages of 18 and 50

Talk about these questions.

Which of these favors bothers you the most? Which bothers you the least?

What are three other favors that you dislike being asked?

Imagine that a close friend asked you each of these favors. What would you say in each situation?

2 CONVERSATION

A  Listen and practice.

Jack: Hi, Rod. This is Jack.

Rod: Oh, hi, Jack. What's up?

Jack: I'm going to my best friend's wedding this weekend. I'd love to videotape it. Would you mind if I borrowed your video camera?

Rod: Um, yeah. That's OK, I guess. I don't think I'll need it for anything.

Jack: Thanks a million.


Rod: Sure. Have you used a video camera before? It's pretty easy.

Jack: Yeah, a couple of times. Would it be OK if I picked it up on Friday night?

Rod: Fine. No problem.



CLASS AUDIO ONLY

B  Listen to two more telephone calls Jack makes. What else does he want to borrow from friends? Do they agree to lend them to him?

3 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Requests with modals and if clauses

Less formal requests are more direct than more formal requests. The past tense is used in an if clause when "would" is used in the main clause. "Would you mind" can be followed by an if clause or a gerund.

Less formal	<p>Can I borrow your pencil? Could you please lend me a suit? Is it OK if I use your phone? Do you mind if I use your CD player? Would it be OK if I used your fax machine? Would you mind if I borrowed your video camera? Would you mind letting me borrow your laptop? I wonder if I could borrow \$100.</p>
More formal	<p>I was wondering if you'd mind lending me your car.</p>

A Make requests using these cues. Then practice with a partner.

- You want to borrow someone's underwater camera for a diving trip to Florida.
 A: Would you mind . . . ?
 B: Sure, that's fine. But please be careful with it.
- You want to use someone's desk.
 A: Is it OK . . . ?
 B: Of course. Go right ahead!
- You need a ride to the airport tomorrow.
 A: . . .
 B: I'd be glad to. What time?
- You need help moving on Saturday.
 A: . . .
 B: Gee, I'm sorry. I'm busy this whole weekend.
- You want to borrow someone's mountain bike.
 A: . . .
 B: I'm sorry. I'd like to, but the tire is flat.



B Rewrite these requests more formally. Then practice making your requests with a partner. Accept or decline each request.


- Lend me a couple of dollars for an espresso.
- Take this book back to the library for me.
- Lend me your black jacket for my date.
- I'd like to borrow your Elton John CD.
- Can I look at that newspaper when you've finished reading it?

Would you mind lending me a couple of dollars for an espresso?

or

Would you mind if I borrowed a couple of dollars for an espresso?

4 PRONUNCIATION *Blended consonants*


A  Listen and practice. When the sounds /t/, /d/, /k/, /g/, /p/, and /b/ come at the end of a word and the next word begins with a consonant, the ending consonant is blended with the beginning consonant.

Ask Bob to sit behind me. I don't like to ask people for money.
 Do you want that newspaper? Could you take this book back to Jack?

B Group work Write five requests like the ones in Exercise 3. Then practice making them and responding to them. Pay attention to the blending of consonants.

5 LISTENING



A  Listen to three telephone conversations. Write down what each caller requests. Does the other person agree to the request? Check (✓) Yes or No.

Request	Yes	No
1. Tina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Mike	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Phil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B Role play Use the chart to act out each conversation.

6 WRITING *Would you mind . . . ?*

A Write a note to a friend or classmate asking for several favors. Explain why you need help.

I'm taking my boss out to dinner on Saturday, and I want to make a good impression. Would you mind if I borrowed your car? I promise to drive very carefully. I also wonder if you'd mind lending me your red bow tie. Let me know. Thanks!

B Pair work Exchange notes and write a reply accepting or declining the requests.

Of course you can borrow my car on Saturday. You can pick it up at About my red bow tie, I'd like to lend it to you, but

interchange 3
Borrowers and lenders
 Find out just how generous you are. Turn to page IC-4.

7 WORD POWER Collocation

A Find three words or phrases that are usually paired with each verb. (More than one answer is possible.) Then compare with a partner.

- | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| an accusation | an excuse | a gift | permission | a reason |
| an apology | an explanation | an invitation | a phone call | a request |
| a compliment | a favor | an offer | a problem | yourself |

deny	.....	.....	.....
offer	.....	.....	.....
receive	.....	.....	.....
refuse	.....	.....	.....
return	.....	.....	.....

B Which of the words or phrases in part A can be paired with *reject*, *accept*, or *decline*?

C Pair work Choose five of the collocations from parts A and B and take turns asking questions with them.

- A: Do you usually return a compliment?
 B: Oh, sure. If someone compliments me on my hair, I try to make a nice comment about her hair, too.


8 CONVERSATION

A  Listen and practice.

- Amy: Hello?
 Jeff: Hello. May I speak to Sophia, please?
 Amy: I'm sorry, she's not in right now. Would you like to leave a message?
 Jeff: Yes, please. This is Jeff. Would you tell her that Tony is having a party on Saturday?
 Amy: Uh-huh.
 Jeff: And would you ask her if she'd like to go with me?
 Amy: All right, Peter. I'll give her the message.
 Jeff: No, this is Jeff, not Peter.
 Amy: Oh, I'm sorry.
 Jeff: By the way, who's Peter?



CLASS AUDIO ONLY 

B  Listen to Amy talking to Sophia. Who is Peter? Is Sophia going to go to the party with Jeff?

C Role play Act out the conversation in part A. Make up your own messages.

9 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Indirect requests

Statements

Sophia, Tony is having a party.

Imperatives

Sophia, call me at five.
Jeff, don't be late.

Yes/No questions

Sophia, are you free on Friday?
Sophia, do you have my number?
Amy, will you be at the party?

Wh-questions

Jeff, when does the party start?
Sophia, when should I pick you up?
Tony, what should we bring?

Indirect requests introduced by that

Could you tell Sophia (that) Tony is having a party?

Indirect requests using infinitives

Would you ask Sophia to call me at five?
Can you tell Jeff not to be late?

Indirect requests introduced by whether or if with statement word order

Can you ask Sophia if she's free on Friday?
Could you ask her whether she has my number?
Please ask Amy whether she'll be at the party.

Indirect requests introduced by a question word with statement word order

Can you ask Jeff when the party starts?
Could you ask Sophia when I should pick her up?
Would you ask Tony what we should bring?

Rewrite these sentences as indirect requests. In other words, ask a friend to deliver the message for you. Then compare with a partner.

1. Jeff, can you drive us to Tony's party?
2. Sophia, are you going to the party with Peter or with Jeff?
3. Tony, how many of my friends can I bring to your party?
4. Amy, when is Sophia going to get home tonight?
5. Anne, please return the book I lent you.
6. Dan, don't call me before 8:00 A.M.
7. Vera, Anne is at the library.
8. Jennifer, what time do you want us to meet you?



1. Could you ask Jeff if he can drive us to Tony's party?

10 PASS IT ON

A Write five indirect requests for your partner to pass on to classmates.

Would you ask Jin Sook if she could lend me \$100?

B Class activity Ask your partner to pass on your requests. Go around the class and make your partner's requests. Then go back and tell your partner how the person responded.

- A: Would you ask Jin Sook if she could lend me \$100?
 B: No problem. . . . Jin Sook, could you lend Isam \$100?
 C: I'm sorry, but I can't! Could you tell Isam I'm broke?
 B: Isam, Jin Sook says that she's broke.



11 READING

Yes or No?

How can you say "yes" and "no" without using words?

A group of Americans who taught English in other countries were discussing their experiences. They decided miscommunications were always possible, even over something as simple as "yes" and "no."



On her first day in Micronesia, Lisa said she thought people were ignoring her requests. The day was hot, and she needed a cold drink. She went into a store and asked, "Do you have cold drinks?" The woman there didn't say anything. Lisa rephrased the question. Still the woman said nothing. At this point, Lisa gave up and left the store. She soon learned that the woman had answered her: She had lifted her eyebrows, which in Micronesia can mean "yes."

This reminded Jan of an experience in Bulgaria, she told the others. She had gone into a restaurant that was famous for its stuffed cabbage.

"Do you have stuffed cabbage today?" she asked the waiter. He nodded his head. Jan eagerly waited. The cabbage never arrived. In Bulgaria, a nod means "no."

In China, David said he had had a different kind of problem. When David asked his students, "Can we meet at 8:00 next week instead of at our usual time?" they immediately answered "yes." So David was greatly surprised when the students never came to class. His colleagues explained that the students couldn't come at 8:00 but said they could. In China, it's disrespectful to disappoint someone - especially a superior - by saying "no."

A Read the article. Where did Lisa, Jan, and David have the experiences they tell about? Describe each person's experience. Complete the chart.

Place	Experience
1. Lisa
2. Jan
3. David

B Group work Talk about these questions.

1. Have you ever heard of these different ways of saying "yes" and "no"? Which do you find the most surprising?
2. The misunderstandings in Micronesia and Bulgaria involved differences in nonverbal communication. Do you know of other gestures that have different meanings in different cultures?
3. Do you ever say "yes" when you would prefer to say "no"? In what situations do you do this?