

Useful phrases

Asking for permission:

Do you mind if...
Would it be a problem, if...
I was wondering if...

Turning down an invitation:

I would love to, but...
That sounds great, but...
I am afraid I can't...

Not understanding:

Sorry?
Pardon me?
Excuse me?

Making a request:

May I...
Could I...
Would you please...

Disagreeing

You have got a point, but...
I see, but...
That is true, but...

① What could you say in these situations?

a) It is hot in the room and you want somebody to open the window.

b) You do not like the food in a restaurant.

c) Your drink is empty and you would like a refill.

d) You are invited to a birthday party but you do not have time.

e) You did not understand somebody's question.

② Work with a partner.

Think of a situation in which you would have to be polite. Write a dialogue and try to include as many of the phrases as you can.

③ Which answer is more polite?

Sombody asks you for directions

- I don't know
 Sorry, but I have no idea.

You need a pen.

- Can I have that?
 Give me the pen.
 Could I borrow your pen?

Somebody is talking on their phone very loudly.

- Could you please talk a little more quietly?
 You are getting on my nerves.
 There are other people in this room.

You are looking for something in a shop.

- Where is...
 I was wondering if you have any...
 I need...