

INTERRUPTING POLITELY

A2-B1 | Functional language for entering a conversation politely

1 Useful phrase patterns

Interrupt politely when you need to ask, clarify, or add an important point.

Excuse me, can I say something?

Excuse me, can I say something?

Sorry to interrupt, but ...

Sorry to interrupt, but I have a question.

Can I add something?

Can I add something about that?

Can I ask a question?

Can I ask a question before you continue?

Just a moment, please.

Just a moment, please. I need to check something.

Before you continue, ...

Before you continue, can you explain that word?

Can I come in here?

Can I come in here? I have a different idea.

Sorry, could you repeat that?

Sorry, could you repeat that? I missed the last part.

2 Respond to the situations

Write one polite interruption that fits each situation.

1. Your teacher is explaining homework, but you have a question about the deadline.

2. Two classmates are discussing a film. You want to share your idea.

3. A friend is telling a long story, but you need to leave in five minutes.

4. Your partner uses a word that you do not understand during a presentation.

5. Someone is speaking very quickly in a group discussion. You missed the final part.

6. Your classmate is giving directions, but you need to check the name of the street.

7. A group is choosing a restaurant, and you have a different suggestion.

8. A colleague is explaining a task, but you need a moment to write down an important detail.

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A2-B1 | Suggested answers

3 Possible answers

These are examples only. Other accurate and polite interruptions are also correct.

Encourage students to choose a phrase that suits the relationship and situation.

1. Sorry to interrupt, but can I ask a question about the deadline?

2. Can I add something? I thought the ending was surprising.

3. Excuse me, can I say something? I need to leave in five minutes.

4. Before you continue, can you explain what that word means?

5. Sorry, could you repeat that? I missed the last part.

6. Can I ask a question? What is the name of the street again?

7. Can I come in here? I have a different restaurant idea.

8. Just a moment, please. I need to write down that important detail.
