

MAKING REQUESTS POLITELY

A2-B1 | Conversation practice examples for asking politely

Conversation: Borrowing a classroom charger

Nina	My laptop battery's almost empty. Could I borrow your charger for a few minutes?
Tom	Of course. It's in my bag. Is your laptop the same type as mine?
Nina	Yes, it is. Would you mind passing the bag over? I can't reach it from here.
Tom	Here you are. There's a socket under the window if you need one.
Nina	Thanks. Is it OK if I move this chair so I can sit closer to it?
Tom	Sure. Just leave space for people to get past.
Nina	I'll put it against the wall. Can you let me know when you need the charger back?
Tom	No rush. My battery's fully charged, so you can keep it until the break.

Key phrases: Could I / Would you mind / Is it OK if I / Can you

Conversation: Asking for help at a station

Traveller	Excuse me. Could you help me find the platform for the train to York?
Assistant	Certainly. It's platform six, but today's train is leaving ten minutes late.
Traveller	I have a connection after that. Please could you check whether I'll still catch it?
Assistant	Let me look. You'll have six minutes to change, which should be enough if there are no further delays.
Traveller	All right. Can I take a later connecting train if I miss it?
Assistant	Yes, your ticket allows that. Keep it with you and ask the staff on the platform.
Traveller	Thank you. And may I ask where the lift is? This suitcase is quite heavy.
Assistant	Just past the ticket gates on your left. It takes you straight to the bridge.

Key phrases: Could you / Please could you / Can I / may I

Create your own conversation

Choose one prompt. Use at least two key phrases and include a natural response and follow-up.

Prompt 1: Ask a classmate to lend you something. Make polite requests about using it and returning it.

Prompt 2: Request travel information and help with a connection. Ask a useful follow-up question.