

GRANTING AND REFUSING PERMISSION

A2-B1 | Conversation practice examples for saying yes or no politely

Conversation: Using a neighbour's garden

Mia	Would it be all right if I took a few photos of your flowers for my art project?
Leo	Of course. They're looking lovely this week. You can go through the side gate.
Mia	Thanks. Could I move one of the small pots into the sunlight?
Leo	That's fine, as long as you put it back afterwards. It's quite light.
Mia	Could I pick a flower as well? It would be easier to draw inside.
Leo	I'd rather you didn't. Those flowers only last a few days, and I want to enjoy them in the garden.
Mia	No problem. I'll take some close-up photos instead.
Leo	Sure, go ahead. Let me know if you need a chair to sit on while you draw.

Key phrases: Of course. / That's fine / I'd rather you didn't. / Sure, go ahead.

Conversation: Borrowing a bike

Nora	Could I borrow your bike to go to the shops? Mine has a flat tyre.
Finn	Yes, you can. The lock key is on the table, and the helmet's by the door.
Nora	Thanks. Is it okay if my brother uses it afterwards? He wants to practise riding.
Finn	I'm afraid not. It's much too big for him, and the brakes are quite sharp.
Nora	All right, I'll tell him. Can I leave it outside the back door when I get home?
Finn	Please don't leave it there. The rain comes in under the roof, and it gets wet.
Nora	I'll put it in the shed, then. Do you need it back before lunch?
Finn	No, but please return it by three. I'm using it to get to work this afternoon.

Key phrases: Yes, you can. / I'm afraid not. / Please don't

Create your own conversation

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

Prompt 1: Ask permission to use someone's space or belongings. Grant reasonable requests and refuse one politely.

Prompt 2: Discuss borrowing an item. Set boundaries about who can use it and how it must be returned.