

GRANTING AND REFUSING PERMISSION

B2-C1 | Conversation practice examples for setting boundaries tactfully

Conversation: Using research material in a workshop

Trainer	Would you mind if I used some of your interview extracts in a training workshop?
Researcher	You're welcome to use the published extracts. The interviewees agreed to those appearing publicly.
Trainer	Could I also show the longer versions you shared with our project team?
Researcher	I'm afraid that won't be possible. Their consent covered the research team, not a wider training audience.
Trainer	Understood. Can I create a fictional case based on the general findings instead?
Researcher	I have no objection to that, provided you don't include details that could identify a participant.
Trainer	I'll keep it general and make clear that it's an invented example.
Researcher	That would be fine, provided the workshop notes do the same. Send me the draft if you'd like a quick check.

Key phrases: You're welcome to / I'm afraid that won't be possible. / I have no objection to / That would be fine, provided

Conversation: A request to film in a workshop

Film-maker	Could we film the apprentice using the tools during the afternoon session?
Owner	I can allow that, as long as the camera stays behind the marked safety line and the apprentice is comfortable being filmed.
Film-maker	Of course. We'd also like to show a few customer orders to explain what the workshop makes.
Owner	I'd prefer you not to film the order sheets. They include names and addresses.
Film-maker	Could we cover those details and film only the product drawings?
Owner	Yes, once I've checked them. Certainly, feel free to film the demonstration pieces on that bench in the meantime.
Film-maker	Thank you. Would it be possible to record a short interview with a customer as well?
Owner	Not without arranging it first. We're unable to give consent on someone else's behalf, but I can ask whether anyone would like to take part.

Key phrases: I can allow that, as long as / I'd prefer you not to / Certainly, feel free to / We're unable to

Create your own conversation

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

Prompt 1: Discuss permission to reuse sensitive material. Distinguish what is public from what requires additional consent.

Prompt 2: Grant permission for filming with clear safety and privacy conditions. Offer suitable alternatives.