

Useful phrasesAsking 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.
- Get a map.

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...