



**1.4 Modals:
Making Request, Offer,
Permission and Promise**

Making requests

A request is how we politely ask someone to do something. There are many types of requests depending on where we are and who we are talking to. There are for some forms are considered to be more polite than others.

Polite *Can you help me with this new computer program?*

More polite *Could you help me with this new computer program?*

Would you help me with this new computer program?

Do you think you could help me with this new computer program?

Could you possibly help me with this new computer program?

Do you mind helping me with this new computer program?

Would you mind helping me with this new computer program?

Response *Sure. / Of course. / No problem.*

Making Offers

- We make an offer when we want to do something for someone, or say that we will do it.

Can I open the door for you?

Yes, please. / No, thanks.

Shall I open the door for you?

I'll open the door for you.

- An offer also means to ask someone if they want something.

Would you like something to drink?

Permission

A permission is asked when someone wants to be allowed to do something. There are for some forms which are considered to be more polite than others.

Polite

Can we go home now?

More polite

Could we go home now?

Do you think we could go home now?

May we go home now?

Do you mind if we go home now?

Is that all right if we go home now?

Response *Yes, you can. / That's all right.*

No, you can't. / Sorry, no.

Making a Promise

I'll submit the project by tomorrow.

*We **won't** do that again, we promise.*

Exercise 1 Choose the correct forms to complete the sentence.

1. Teacher: Marco, _____ help me carry this?

Marco: _____, teacher.

- a. Would you please / Yes, of course
- b. you will / Yes, certainly
- c. you can / Of course
- d. Would you / No, thanks.

2. Student: _____ help me with my homework, please?

Teacher: Of course!

- a. Could you
- b. Could you please
- c. May you
- d. Might you

3. A: _____ you show me how to use this mobile phone?

B: _____. How can I help?

- a. Could / I'm happy
- b. Could / I would happy to
- c. Can / I be glad to
- d. Can / I'd be glad to

4. Teacher, _____ explain this grammar to me again, please?

- a. you will b. could you c. you may d. you could

5. Bella, _____ send me the file by email?

- a. you could b. would please you c. would you please d. you may

6. Sandy, _____ send these letters right away?

- a. do you can b. may you c. can you d. you would

7. Good morning. AIC company. _____ help you?

- a. You would b. May I c. Could you d. Do you mind

8. I can't talk to you at this moment. _____ wait for ten minutes?

- a. Would you mind c. Do you think you could
b. Do you mind if d. You could please

9. I can't figure it out. _____ helping me?

- a. Would you mind c. Do you think you could
b. Do you mind if d. You could please

10. _____ buying two cartons of milk on your way home?

- a. Could you b. Will you c. Would you d. Would you mind

Exercise 2 Put the words into correct order to build sentences.

1. please / we / out / , / go / Can / ?

Can we go out, please?

2. you / but / I'm / afraid / here / . / can't / smoke

I'm afraid but you can't smoke here.

3. main gate / , / ? / we / open / Can / please / the

Can we open the main gate, please?

4. 9 / I / but / out / I / after / in / watch / pm / . / TV / bedroom / can't / can / go / my

I can't go out after 9 pm but I can watch TV in my bedroom.

5. class / . / chat / can't / in / You / the

You can't chat in the class.

6. please / Can / go / ? / to / the / toilet / , / I

Can I go to the toilet, please?

7. could / Do / think / you / we / that / bag / use / ?

Do you think we could use that bag?

8. you / loud / in / make / noise / sorry / can't / but / the / library / . / I'm

I'm sorry but you can't make loud noise in the library.

9. if / come / party / to / your / all / tomorrow / Is / it / right / we ?

Is it all right if we come to your party tomorrow?

10. Can / Thailand / in / smoke / in / restaurants / I / ?

Can I smoke in restaurants in Thailand?

Exercise 3 Complete each sentence with one suitable word.

1. I've got an idea. Shall we record the conversation on this phone?
2. Do you think you should have some rest after a long flight?
3. Would you mind carrying this for me?
4. Swimming is perhaps not a good idea. How about going to the gym instead?
5. It's freezing outside. Can/ Could / May close the window, please?
6. Is it all right if he skips this conference?
7. Let's ask someone for help.
8. You didn't do well in your exam. I think you 'd better not spend too much time on TV.
9. Could you possibly cook me dinner? I'm starving.
10. We 'll be right back, I promise.

Exercise 4 Complete the dialogues. Underline the correct words.

- A: I sent my résumé in for a job interview two weeks ago, but I haven't had any reply yet.

B: You could / *Why don't you* call the company.
- A: I have an important appointment and I'm worried about getting there on time. Traffic is so heavy.

B: You *might* / Why don't you change the time of the appointment? The traffic is lighter in the afternoon.
- A: I can't find a job. I really need some work.

B: You *why not* / could look for temporary work. It's often easier to find.
- A: I have an interview tomorrow, but I don't know a lot about the company.

B: You might want to / *Why don't you* do some research online. I'll help you.
- A: I'm worried about my interview next Monday. I don't know what they'll ask me.

B: Well, we could / *how about* practice together. I can ask you questions.

6. A: I'm going to dress casually for my interview tomorrow. It's a very informal company.

B: You *could not* / *might not* want to dress too casually. It's still a job interview.

7. A: I always get lost when I drive. I have to drive to that company.

B: You *might want to* / *Why don't you* use a GPS?

8. A: I just had a good interview, and I'm really interested in the job.

B: *Why don't* / *Why not* you send them a thank-you note?

9. A: I think I'll call and ask for the result of the interview.

B: *Shall* / *Why don't you* wait for a few days?

10. A: *Would you mind* / *Do you mind if* calling the company asking for the results for me?

B: No problem.



The End