



ENGLISH GRAMMAR 2 INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Unit 37 – can/could/would you ... ? etc.
(Requests, offers, permission and invitations)

tienganh



Can/could/would you ... ? etc. (Requests, offers, permission and invitations)

POLITE REQUESTS

A

Could you open the door, please?



- ❖ Asking people to do things (requests): We use can or could to ask people to do things:
 - EX1: Can you wait a moment, please? or Could you wait a moment, please?
 - EX2: Helen, can you do me a favor?
 - EX3: Excuse me, could you tell me how to get to the bus station?
- ❖ You can say **Do you think you could ... ?**:
 - EX4: Do you think you could take me to the airport?
(not Do you think you can)

B

ASKING FOR THINGS

- ❖ To ask for something, we use **Can (I) have ... ? / Could (I) have ... ? or Can (I) get ... ?**:
 - EX5: in a shop. Can I have these postcards, please? or Can I get these postcards, please?
 - EX6: in a restaurant. Could we have the menu, please? or Can we have the menu, please?
- ❖ **May I have ... ?** is also possible:
 - EX7: May I have these postcards, please?

Can/could/would you ... ? etc. (Requests, offers, permission and invitations)

POLITE REQUESTS

C

Could I use your phone charger?



- ❖ Asking to do things - We use **can I** or **could I** to ask to do something:
 - EX8: (on the phone) Hello, **can I speak** to Steve, please?
 - EX9: '**Could I use** your phone charger?' 'Sure.'
 - EX10: **Do you think I could** borrow your bike?
- ❖ **May** is also possible:
 - EX10: May I ask you a question?
- ❖ **May** is more formal than **can** or **could**. You can also say:
Do you mind if I ... ? Is it all right if I ... ? / Is it OK if I ... ?
 - EX11: Do you mind if I use your phone charger?
 - EX12: 'Is it all right if I sit here?' 'Yes, of course.'

D

Offering and inviting - You can use **Can I ... ?** to offer to do something:

- EX13: '**Can I help** you?' 'No, it's OK. I can manage, thanks.'
- EX14: '**Can I get** you some coffee?' 'That would be nice.'

To offer or to invite, we use **Would you like ... ?** (not **Do you like**):

- EX15: 'Would you like some coffee?' 'No, thanks.'
- EX16: 'Would you like to eat with us tonight?' 'That would be great.'

I'd like ... (= I would like) is a polite way to say what you want:

- EX17: (at a tourist information office) **I'd like** some information about hotels, please.
- EX18: (in a shop) **I'd like** to try on this jacket, please.

Can/could/would you ... ? etc. (Requests, offers, permission and invitations)



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Select the option which best completes the sentences below:

You're carrying a lot of things. You can't open the door yourself.
There's a man near the door. You say to him:

_____ the door, please?

A. Can you open

B. Will you open

C. Do you open

D. Could you open