

Where is the toilet?

babo level: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

When you are with others, do not say you have to use the toilet. Nobody wants to know what you are going to do in there!

Instead of saying toilet, you should say restroom, washroom, or bathroom instead. It is not very *ladylike* to announce to people your need to use a toilet, especially if you are a woman.

Incorrect

"Where is the toilet?"

"I'll be right back. I need to use the toilet."

"Can you show me where the toilet is?"

Correct

"Excuse me, where is the washroom?"

*"I'll be right back. I need to *freshen up*."*

"Excuse me, can you show me where the restroom is?"

Tips:

It is *customary* in Western culture to say: "May I be excused?" while seated for dinner in very *formal* situations before you leave to the restroom. Women also often use the expression: "I need to freshen up." This gives the *impression* that all you will do in the restroom is fix your hair or check your make-up instead of actually using the restroom. Nobody wants to imagine you sitting on a toilet!

Vocabulary:

- **ladylike**: Characteristic of a well-mannered woman or girl who follows traditional norms of femininity. "She is very ladylike; always wearing a beautiful floral dress and smiling."
- **freshen up**: To revive oneself by washing oneself or changing into clean clothes. "May I be excused? I need to freshen up in the ladies room."
- **customary**: According to the customs or usual practices associated with a particular society, place, or set of circumstances. "It's customary for the bride to wear white on her wedding day."
- **formal**: Suitable for or constituting an official or important situation or occasion. "It is always important to dress formal when going on a job interview."
- **impression**: An idea, feeling, or opinion about something or someone, especially one formed without conscious thought or on the basis of little evidence. "Even though I just met him, I get the impression he is under a lot of stress."
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Daily Expressions & Idioms:

1.) **"blessing in disguise"**: When something good happens to you that initially seemed bad.

"Losing my job was a blessing in disguise. I would have never thought I would find a higher paying job so quickly!"

2.) **"rule of thumb"**: Is a general unwritten rule for whatever you are talking about.

"As a rule of thumb, men should always pay for the first date."

"As a rule of thumb, you should measure twice, and cut once."