11 Ways to Interrupt Someone Politely in English (from *Speak Confident English*: <u>link to site</u>)

When you need to deliver a message:

- I hate to interrupt, but I wanted to let you know I have to leave the meeting early.
- I'm so sorry to interrupt, but...
- I don't mean to be rude, but may I interrupt quickly?

When you need to end a conversation

- I'm terribly sorry to interrupt you, but I have to be at work for a meeting shortly and must *get going*. It was wonderful to see you. Have a nice day. (Note: In this context, to get going means to depart or leave.)
- Oh! Sorry to interrupt, but I just noticed the time, and I need to get to work. I'm very sorry. But it was great chatting with you.

When you need to ask a question or would like to clarify something:

- Sorry to interrupt, but may I ask a quick question?
- I'm so sorry for interrupting, but I'd like to make sure I understood you correctly.
- I don't mean to be rude, but I'd like to ask a question.

When you want to join a conversation or express your opinion:

- So sorry to interrupt, but before we *move on*, I'd like to add my thoughts on this topic. (Note: to move on means to start doing or discussing something new.)
- Excuse me, but may I jump in here?
- May I add something quickly?