

Asking a favour

In this video, Noelia asks Paul for some help. Listen to the language Noelia uses to ask a favour and practise saying the useful phrases.

Before watching

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

1. Have you got a?
a. bit b. minute c. time
2. I need a
a. favour b. rescue c. service
3. What can I you with?
a. attend b. guide c. help
4. I'm really about this but ...
a. bad b. bored c. sorry
5. Would you be to work tomorrow?
a. able b. easy c. possible
6. I'm not really if I can.
a. clear b. decided c. sure
7. Is there any you could work late?
a. chance b. luck c. opportunity
8. I would if I, but I can't.
a. can b. could c. will

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. Paul is relaxing, having a break from work.	True	False
2. Paul enjoyed the Active Arctic project.	True	False
3. Noelia wants Paul to do more work on the Active Arctic project.	True	False
4. Paul has another project to finish urgently.	True	False
5. Paul has arranged to take his daughter to the cinema.	True	False
6. Paul wants to be paid for the extra work.	True	False

Task 2

Complete the text with words from the box.

able	can	chance	could	help
I need a	minute	sorry	sure	would

Noelia: Paul, have you got a (1).....? (2)..... favour.

Paul: I'm a bit busy, but sure, what can I (3)..... you with?

Noelia: So, you know the branding job for Active Arctic?

Paul: Yes?

Noelia: Yeah, so ... look, I'm really (4)..... about this, but they want some more changes made.

Paul: Seriously? I've already rewritten that copy, I don't know, like, 20 times?

Noelia: I know. I'm so sorry. Would you be (5)..... to work on it this afternoon?

Paul: Well, I'm not really (6)..... if I (7)....., Noelia.

Noelia: Is there any (8)..... you could work late tonight?

Paul: Sorry, Noelia. I (9)..... if I (10)....., but I can't.

Task 3

Write one word to fill the gaps.

Noelia: Emir, have you (1)..... a minute?

Emir: Yeah, sure.

Noelia: Look, I'm really sorry (2)..... this, but I need (3)..... favour.

Emir: What (4)..... I help you (5).....?

Noelia: I'm so sorry, but Lemontree want to meet tomorrow morning. Would you (6)..... able (7)..... prepare the presentation for then?

Emir: For tomorrow morning? I'm (8)..... really sure (9)..... I can.

Noelia: Is there (10)..... chance you could work on it this afternoon?

Emir: I'm sorry. I (11)..... if I (12)....., but I can't.

Discussion

When was the last time you did someone a favour?

Transcript

Ana: Hi! I'm Ana. Welcome to *What to Say!*

Do you know what to say when you want to ask a favour? Listen out for useful language for asking a favour. Then, we'll practise saying the new phrases – after this.

Noelia: Paul, have you got a minute? I need a favour.

Paul: I'm a bit busy, but sure, what can I help you with?

Noelia: So, you know the branding job for Active Arctic?

Paul: Of course. It was so good to finally finish that project. It went on and on and on ...

Noelia: Yeah, so ... look, I'm really sorry about this, but they want some more changes made.

Paul: Seriously? I've already rewritten that copy, I don't know, like, 20 times?

Noelia: I know. I'm so sorry. Would you be able to work on it this afternoon?

Paul: Well, I'm not really sure if I can, Noelia. I'm finishing the Moosh Monkey social media campaign and they're expecting it by the end of the day.

Noelia: I'd forgotten about that. Is there any chance you could work late tonight?

Paul: Sorry, Noelia. I would if I could, but I can't.

Noelia: Please?

Paul: I'm taking my niece to the cinema for her birthday. It's been planned for ages.

Noelia: OK. Well, then could you come in early tomorrow? I'll make it up to you!

Paul: OK. How?

Noelia: Name your price.

Paul: An extra day's holiday?

Noelia: Can you get in for 5 a.m.?

Paul: 7 a.m.

Noelia: 6 a.m.

Paul: Deal.

Noelia: Deal.

Ana: Hello again! Looks like that's an early start for Paul tomorrow, then! So, did you notice the useful phrases used for asking a favour? Listen to me and then repeat.

Have you got a minute?

I need a favour.

What can I help you with?

I'm really sorry about this, but they want some changes.

Would you be able to work this afternoon?

I'm not really sure if I can.

Is there any chance you could work late?

I would if I could, but I can't.

Ana: Try and use some of these phrases the next time you want to ask a favour in English. Bye for now!

Answers

Preparation task

1. b
2. a
3. c
4. c
5. a
6. c
7. a
8. b

Task 1

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. False
6. False

Task 2

1. minute
2. I need a
3. help
4. sorry
5. able
6. sure
7. can
8. chance
9. would
10. could

Task 3

1. got
2. about
3. a | this | that
4. can | might | may
5. with
6. be
7. to
8. not
9. if | that | whether
10. any | a
11. would
12. could