

COMMUNICATION

Could you help me with this?

LEVEL

Elementary (A2)

NUMBER

EN_A2_1102X

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can ask someone for help.
- I can accept or reject a request for help.



Asking for help

**Would you
do me a favour?**



Hey James! **Would you do me
a favour?** I need some help.

**Could you
please help me?**



Could you please help me? I
don't know who else to ask.



Responding to a request

I would be happy to.



Of course!

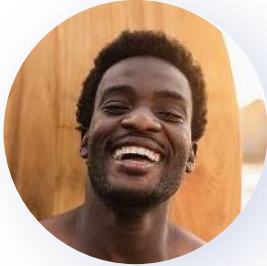


I would be happy to. What
can I do to help?

Of course! I'm happy to help.



Read the dialogue



Would you do me a favour?

Yes! **I would be happy to.**





Read the dialogue



Could you please help me?

Yes, what do you need?



Our new boss is here. **Could you please** go and greet her?

Of course!



Using *could* or *would* you...?

- We use *could you* or *would you* to politely ask someone for help.
- We can add *please* after *you* to be even more polite.

Less polite

Help me!

Do me a favour!

More polite

Could you please help me?

Would you do me a favour?



Asking for help

- We use *could you* or *would you* + **the base form** of the verb.
- *Would you...?* is more **formal** than *could you..?*

Examples

Could you **open** the door for me?

Could you **answer** the phone?

Would you **read** this email?

Would you **take** a message?



The bare infinitive form of the main verb is without 'to':
e.g. *open, close, give.*



Categorise the phrases

Choose the correct option.

		Request	Response
1	Of course!		
2	Could you please help me?		
3	I would be happy to.		
4	Would you do me a favour?		
5	Could you answer the phone?		



Form requests

1 Open / window



Would you please open the window?

2 Answer / door



3 Check / my spelling



4 Translate / my CV



5 Pour / coffee



6 Move / seats



”

**Would you
be able to help me?**



I need someone to look after Emily later. **Would you be able to** help me?

Could you **possibly** help me?



I need someone to check the numbers. Could you **possibly** help me?



We use **possibly** to make the request more polite.



Responding to a request

I'm sorry, I can't.



I'm sorry, I can't right now. I'm busy.

I'm afraid not.



I'm afraid not. I'm already late for work.



Read the dialogue



Would you be able to translate my CV into French?

Sorry, but **I'm afraid not**. I don't speak French!





Read the dialogue



Could you **possibly** teach me how to do that on Excel?

I'm sorry, I can't right now. I have a meeting!





Could you help me?

I'm sorry, I can't.

We use ***I'm sorry*** or ***Sorry*** to politely say no to someone.



Offering an excuse

- If **we cannot help** someone, it is polite to **offer an excuse**.
- This is the **reason** why we cannot help them.

Response

I'm sorry, I can't right now.

Sorry, I'm afraid not.

Excuse

I have a meeting!

I don't speak French!



Categorise the response

Choose the correct meaning.

		Yes	No
1	Of course!	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Sorry, I can't.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	I would be happy to.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	I'm afraid not.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Fill in the gaps



I missed my train to work this morning. _____ you possibly give me a lift to the office?

I'm sorry, I _____. My car's being repaired.



Ah, okay! Well, _____ you be able to lend me some money for a taxi?

_____. Here's 20 pounds.



can't

could

of course

would



Transform into polite requests

Complete by yourself. **Compare** answers in breakout rooms.

1 Take the dog for a walk!



Could you please take the dog for a walk?

2 Answer the phone!



3 Open the door!



4 Turn the music off!



5 Take out the rubbish!



6 Drive me to the cinema!





Choose a card

Ask a classmate for help with it. They should accept or reject your request.

Calling the
doctor

Looking after
my child

*Could you...?
Would you...?*

Changing the
tyre on my car

Cleaning my
house

*Of course! I'm sorry, I can't.
I would be happy to. I'm afraid not.*

Moving all my
furniture

Writing this
email

*Great! Ah okay!
Thanks a lot! Thanks anyway!*



Game time!

Ex.

Could you possibly fly me to the moon?

**Work together to
write a list of funny
things to do.**

**Take turns asking for help and
responding.**





- Can you accept or reject a request for help?

End of the lesson

Idiom

to lend a hand

Meaning: to do something to help someone

Example: Could you **lend me a hand** and help with this cleaning?



Additional practice



Fill in the gaps

1 _____ you _____ the door for me?

2 I _____ be _____ to!

3 Would you _____ me a _____?

4 Would you _____ able to pick the children up?

5 I'm _____, I can't!

would
sorry
do
could
be
favour
open
happy



Make polite requests

Imagine what each person is asking for. **Write** two to three ideas.



Would you be able to... ?



Could you possibly...?



Discuss



**When was the last
time you asked
someone for help?**

Tell your class!





Answer key

- P. 9:**
1. Response
 2. Request
 3. Response
 4. Request
 5. Request

- P. 10:** **Suggested answers:**
2. Could/would you (please) answer the door?
 3. Could/would you (please) check my spelling?
 4. Could/would you (please) translate my CV?
 5. Could/would you (please) pour me a coffee?
 6. Could/would you (please) move seats?

- P. 18:**
1. Yes
 2. No
 3. Yes
 4. No



Answer key

P. 19:

1. Could
2. can't
3. would
4. Of course!

P. 20:

Suggested answers:

2. Could you please answer the phone?
3. Would you be able to open the door?
4. Could you please turn the music off?
5. Would you be able to take out the rubbish?
6. Could you please drive me to the cinema?

P. 26:

1. Could, open
2. would, happy
3. do, favour
4. be
5. sorry



Summary

Asking for help

- We use **could you...?** to politely ask someone for help.
- We use **could you** + **the base form** of the verb → **Could you** open the door for me?

Sounding even more polite

- Use **would you** instead of **could you** to be more polite → **Would you** open the door for me?
- Add **please** after **you** to also sound more polite → **Would you please** open the door for me?

Offering excuses

- If we cannot help someone, we say **sorry** and usually offer an **excuse** for why not.
- *Could you translate this document into French?* → **Sorry**, I'm afraid not. I don't speak French.



Vocabulary

Would you do me a favour?

Could you please help me?

I would be happy to.

Of course!

Would you be able to... ?

Could you possibly... ?

I'm sorry, I can't.

I'm afraid not.

to offer an excuse

