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### مدرس دوره: استاد مرتضی گیتی

به منظور مشاهده ی دیگر دوره های تنظیم شده توسط استاد مرتضی گیتی به صفحه ی اول وبسایت

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# 15 Ways to Ask for Permission - Part 1

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If you come up with an idea and hope to do it, you usually have to ask permission for it! Whether it is with your family or at school or work, you will often have to ask to get what you want because other people cannot guess what you desire.

In these cases, how can you ask for permission? Below are several ways – and the situations in which to use them – that you can ask to do something.

## 1. You have an idea of what you want to do and want to be polite

All three phrases have the same meaning, but each of them has a slightly different effect when it comes to how polite you are being.

### May I (please)...?

This is usually very polite, and used when you are asking someone who has authority over you for something. To make it even more polite, add the please after asking it.

#### Examples

- *May I please use the restroom?*
- *May I go to the park with my friends today please?*
- *May I look over this contract and discuss it with my family members before signing it and getting it back to you?*

### Can I... (please)?

Asking *can* you do something is more direct than using *may* or *could*. In the case of a very formal situation, it may be better to stick with the other ways of asking the question, but it is acceptable in many situations. If you want to be politer, it is best to add *please* into the sentence, especially when you are talking to someone who has authority over you.

#### Examples

- *Can I use your pen please?*
- *Can I spend my weekend in Portland before traveling to Seattle?*
- *Can I please see the detailed plans for your kitchen remodeling?*

## Could I... (please)?

Asking something with *could* is a gentler way to ask than *can I*. It is used the same way as can.

### Examples

- *Could I borrow some money to pay for dance class and pay you back next week?*
- *Could I please watch the next episode of this show before we start cleaning the house?*
- *Could I get another glass of water please?*

## 2. You know something that you could do and you really value the other person's opinion

For these phrases, you are suggesting something that you want to do, or something that you could do, and trying to see whether the person you ask is approving of your suggestion or not. Asking for permission in these ways shows that you value the other person's opinion.

Even though you already have an idea of what to do, you still want them to weigh in – to provide their opinion – on which you will base your decision. These are great phrases to use if speaking to a teacher at school or a boss at work. They show that you are not asking them to come up with the ideas for you, just to help guide your ideas in a way that works for everyone.

## Would I be able to...?

Asking if you are able to do something allows the person you ask to answer either yes or no. This question respects their time and expertise, and you do not have to take up more time than they are willing to give. This is a great way to ask for permission if you are short on time or have caught the person at a busy time.

Asking this way is a great lead up question to adding in a reason why you think a certain way, which can help the person you ask better understand why you suggest what you suggest. It also allows them to give you an alternative and explain why they think another way, instead.

### Examples

- *Would I be able to switch the color palates for the two projects? I think they fit together better that way.*
- *Would I be able to turn this essay in on Monday next week? I will be out of town on Tuesday, when the paper is due.*
- *Would I be able to ask you to give me a hand with lifting this cabinet? It is a little heavy.*

### **Do you mind if I...?**

While the previous question asks for the opinion of the person, this question asks whether they will be bothered in you do something. The purpose of asking for permission this way is to show that you do not want to become a burden for this person. You can ask if someone minds that you do something at school or at work, and this question is also commonly used when asking a stranger if you can play your music out loud, take an empty seat at their table, etc.

When you ask if someone minds that you do something, you show a little more determination to do it. you are not asking for their permission the way *Would I be able to* does; instead, you generally have made up your mind and just want to make sure you will not bother the other person.

#### **Examples**

- *Do you mind if I sit here with you?*
- *Do you mind if I have a snack? I haven't eaten all morning.*
- *Do you mind if I rearrange your books for you? They seem a little bit messy.*

### **Do you think I should...?**

With this question, you show a little more reliance on the opinion of the person that you are asking. When you ask if you should do something, it shows that you have a tentative idea of it, but you are really not sure and will probably take their suggestion.

Whether or not you should ask for permission this way depends on the situation and your relationship with the person that you are asking. If you are in a business setting with your boss, it is often better to avoid this way of asking for permission because it shows that you are too timid. However, it is a good way to ask for advice from a friend.

#### **Examples**

- *Do you think I should go to this party with him or not?*
- *Do you think I should just let this go because we will have to work together again next time?*
- *Do you think I should buy the purple shirt or the blue hat?*

### **What do you think if I...?**

With this question, you are again being a little more assertive. However, this assertiveness is mixed with a genuine desire to know what the other person thinks about it. If you come across a problem when you are working, this is a great way to discuss it with your boss.

Instead of trying to come up with a perfect idea and just having them sign off on the solution, you are instead asking them to have a conversation with you so you can pick their brain – or really ask them questions to help you understand their thinking – and see what could work and what could not.

Even though this comes across as a yes or no question, it will usually lead to your boss telling you a lot more about the way that they think. This question is a good mix between showing that you have expertise and you have thought about a solution to the problem, but also making sure you hear what they have to say about it.

### **Examples**

- *What do you think if I ask the marketing department to redesign this ad and target a different audience than before?*
- *What do you think if I switch the agendas for the morning and the afternoon, so that people will be more awake when they hear about the more important information?*
- *What do you think if I spend more time working on the train project and give my responsibilities on the bus project to someone else?*