

TEACH-THIS.COM

Permission & Requests Lesson

Can and Could

Use Can I...? or Could I...? when you ask if it is okay to do something (asking permission).

Examples:

Can I meet you on Friday?

Could I telephone you tomorrow?

Use Can you...? or Could you...? when you ask someone to do something (making requests).

Examples:

Can you meet me on Friday?

Could you telephone me tomorrow?

It is considered more polite to use Could...? when asking others to do something for you.

Complete the each question using *can* or *could*.

Then practice asking and answering the questions with a partner.

Example:

Ask someone to write down their name and address.

Could you write down your name and address, please?

1. Ask if it is okay to have to a drink of water.

2. Ask someone to drive you to the airport.

3. Ask if it is okay to open the window.

4. Ask if it is okay to meet someone tomorrow.

5. Ask someone to tell you the time.

6. Ask someone to lend you something.

TEACH-THIS.COM

Permission & Requests Lesson

Write your own questions for asking permission and making requests using *can* and *could*. Then, practise them with other members of the class.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

The following short dialogues are not polite. Rewrite them using *can* and *could*, so they sound more polite.

Example:

I want to speak to Mr Soren.

Could I speak to Mr Soren, please?

1. A: Lend me 50 dollars until tomorrow.

A: _____

B: I'm short of money right now.

B: _____

2. A: Tell me the way to the bus station.

A: _____

B: I don't know where it is.

B: _____

3. A: I want to leave early.

A: _____

B: No way.

B: _____

4. A: Want a lift?

A: _____

B: No.

B: _____

5. A: Bring me the bill now

A: _____

B: Yes.

B: _____