

# Could You Do Me a Favor? Using Modals to Make Polite Requests

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## APPENDIX A: Role-Playing Handout

### Directions

- The Request column contains typical requests that we make.
- In the Relationship column, write the relationship of a person to whom you might make this request, choosing from the following list:

Stranger	doctor	teacher
Banker	librarian	advisor
Boss	classmate	coach
Acquaintance	friend	relative

- Choose the appropriate modal to go with each request based on the target audience.
- Take turns making and responding to each request.

	Request	Relationship*	Answer
Ex.	___ <i>Can I</i> _____ borrow some money?	<i>friend</i>	<i>Sure. No problem.</i>
1	_____ show me the way to . . . . .		
2	_____ open the window		
3	_____ tell me the time		
4	_____ use your cell phone		
5	_____ sit next to you		

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	<b>Request</b>	<b>Relationship*</b>	<b>Answer</b>
6	_____ borrow your dictionary		
7	_____ help me		
8	_____ give me a piece of paper		
9	_____ go to the restroom		
10	_____ give me a ride		
11	_____ tell me my grade		
12	_____ buy me lunch		
13	_____ show me your pictures		
14	_____ help me with this exercise		
15	_____		

## APPENDIX B: Role-Play Cards

### Directions

- Pair students and give each pair a role-play card. Explain that they will enact the situation for the class and give them several minutes to prepare and practice. They should decide in advance how much the characters should negotiate and whether or not the request will be granted. Encourage them to be dramatic!
- Circulate among the pairs to offer suggestions and corrections.
- Have pairs enact the role-play, giving them a maximum of 2 minutes.
- After each situation, ask the rest of the class for feedback and offer corrections as needed.

<p>You live in an apartment or dormitory with a roommate. Your roommate often has guests over until late at night. They talk loudly and play music. This noise makes it difficult for you to sleep. Ask your roommate to please be quiet.</p>	<p>You have an important assignment due in class the next day. You have a dentist appointment during the class time, so you will be absent. Ask your teacher if you can submit your assignment the next day.</p>
<p>You are a teenager with strict parents. Your friends are having a party this weekend, and they have invited you. You really want to go. Ask your parents if you can have permission to attend.</p>	<p>You are taking English classes. Sometimes your teacher speaks very quickly, and you don't understand. Ask your teacher to slow down.</p>
<p>You are a student and you work. Every day you come home and have to make dinner. Ask another member of your family (spouse, child) if he/she can make dinner tonight.</p>	<p>You own a dog. You are going on vacation. Ask your neighbor if he/she can watch your dog while you are gone.</p>