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Ask Permission and Make Requests

A. Use the expressions below to make indirect questions for situations 1 to 10.

Making a Request (to someone else)

I wonder if you could...?
I'd be grateful if you could...
Could you possibly...?
Do you think you could...?

Asking for Permission (for yourself)

Would you mind if I...?
I wonder if it might be possible to...?
I wonder if I could...?
Is it all right if I...?

1. Ask a friend for a favour _____

2. Ask a policeman for directions _____

3. You need to borrow a friend's phone _____

4. Ask to borrow your friend's car_____

5. Ask someone to open the door for you _____

6. Interrupt someone in a meeting _____

7. You have just arrived at a hotel _____

8. You need to change your flight _____

9. You stop a taxi and speak to the driver_____

10. It's hot. You want to open the window _____

B. Fill in the missing letters in the positive replies 1 to 5. Then, put the words in the right order in the negative replies 6 to 10.

1. Yes, pl_ _ _ _ d_

2. Sure, g_ ah_ _ _

3. By a_ _ me_ _s

4. Yes, cer_ _ _ _ _ _

5. Yes, o_ c_ _ _ _ _

6. honest be to bit well inconvenient it's a _____

7. sorry I'm but busy I'm little right a now_____

8. possible not that's really I'm afraid _____

9. you actually didn't rather I'd _____

10. can't at I afraid I'm moment the _____

C. Work with a partner. Practice the language.

Student A - Ask permission and make requests using the situations from Exercise A.

Student B - Give positive and negative replies.

Change roles when you have finished.

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Answer Key - Exercise B

1. Yes, please do.

2. Sure, go ahead.

3. By all means.

4. Yes, certainly.

5. Yes, of course.

6. Well, to be honest, it's a bit inconvenient.

7. I'm sorry but I'm a little busy right now.

8. That's not really possible. I'm afraid.

9. I'd rather you didn't, actually.

10. I'm afraid. I can't at the moment.

'I'm afraid' and 'actually' can be at the beginning or end.