

Polite Requests: Could You vs. Would You Mind

Medium

B1 | Intermediate

B2 | Upper Intermediate

Conditional sentence

Gerund

Infinitive

Modal verb

Negation

Phrasal verb

Phrase

Questions

Verb

Verb mood

Verb tense

1. Help the confused time traveler ask the Victorian locals for assistance! Choose the correct verb form to complete the polite requests.

Excuse me, good sir, could you _____ me toward the nearest electrical outlet? My phone is dying.

I seem to be quite lost. Would you mind _____ why everyone is riding in horse-drawn carriages today?

And finally, would you mind if I _____ your magnificent top hat for a quick selfie?

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- A) point
- B) pointing
- C) pointed

Blank 2

- A) explaining
- B) explain
- C) explained

Blank 3

- A) borrowed
- B) borrowing
- C) to borrow

2. Help the exhausted college student ask their roommate for some peace and quiet. Choose the correct verb form to complete the request.

"Hey, I have a massive history exam tomorrow morning. Would you mind _____ your bagpipe practice until the weekend?"

Select one.

- A) delay
- B) to delay
- C) delaying
- D) delayed

3. Complete the overly specific customer's coffee order by choosing the right words for each gap.

"Excuse me, could you _____ this iced latte with exactly three ice cubes? And would you mind _____ a tiny sprinkle of cinnamon on top?"

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- A) make
- B) making
- C) made

Blank 2

- A) adding
- B) add
- C) to add

4. Choose ALL the polite and grammatically correct ways the student can ask their musical neighbor to lower the volume.

Excuse me, I'm taking a crucial online exam right now. _____ your tuba practice for an hour?

Select all that apply.

- A) Would you mind pausing
- B) Could you pause
- C) Would you mind to pause
- D) Do you mind pause

5. Complete the moviegoer's desperate whisper to the person texting brightly in the row ahead.

"This is the best part of the film! Would you mind _____ your phone flashlight during the plot twist?"

Select one.

- A) not to use
- B) don't use
- C) not using
- D) no using

6. Select ALL the grammatically correct ways the opportunistic employee can ask to use the chair.

Hey Sarah, since you're going to the Bahamas next week, _____ your fancy ergonomic chair while you're gone?

Select all that apply.

- A) would you mind if I borrowed
- B) could I please borrow
- C) would you mind to let me borrow
- D) could I borrowing

7. Complete the nervous employee's email to their intimidating boss. Choose the correct phrase for each blank.

Dear Mr. Sterling,

I know you are incredibly busy, but _____ reviewing my presentation before the big meeting?

If it's not too much trouble, _____ share the latest marketing data with me so I can update the charts?

Finally, would you mind _____ tomorrow morning off to recover from the stress of this project?

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- A) would you mind
- B) could you
- C) do you

Blank 2

- A) could you
- B) would you mind
- C) are you able

Blank 3

- A) if I took
- B) me to take
- C) I taking

8. Complete the barista's polite request to a customer who is mumbling their complicated coffee order.

"I want to make sure your half-caf-soy-mocha-latte is absolutely perfect. Could you _____ that last part again?"

Select one.

- A) repeating
- B) repeat
- C) to repeat
- D) repeated

9. Help the stressed roommate draft a polite text message without starting a war! Choose the correct request phrase to complete each sentence.

Hey! I'm trying to study for my finals, so _____ turning down that dubstep music just a little bit?

Also, while you're in the kitchen, _____ wash the absolute mountain of dishes in the sink? I would really appreciate it!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- A) would you mind
- B) could you
- C) would you

Blank 2

- A) could you
- B) would you mind
- C) do you mind

10. Help the stressed student negotiate with their musical roommate by selecting the correct verb forms for each gap.

"Hey, I have a huge chemistry exam tomorrow morning. Would you mind _____ down that aggressive accordion music? Also, could you _____ headphones next time you practice?"

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- A) turning
- B) turn
- C) to turn

Blank 2

- A) use
- B) using
- C) to use

11. Help the desperate roommate craft a polite but firm text message. Select ALL the grammatically correct options to fill in the blank.

Hey, _____ out that mysterious science experiment growing in the back of the fridge?

Select all that apply.

- A) could you throw
- B) would you mind throwing
- C) would you mind to throw
- D) could you throwing

12. Help the overwhelmed traveler ask a friendly stranger for a favor by selecting the correct option for each blank.

"Hi there! I need to grab my boarding pass from the kiosk. Would you mind _____ my giant suitcase for just a second? Actually, could you _____ me toward the nearest check-in desk, too?"

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- A) watching
- B) watch
- C) watched

Blank 2

- A) point
- B) pointing
- C) to point

13. Help the trapped airplane passenger politely wake their neighbor. Choose the correct phrase to complete the sentence.

"Excuse me, I'm so sorry to wake you, but _____ letting me squeeze past to use the restroom?"

Select one.

- A) could you
- B) would you mind
- C) do you
- D) would you please

14. Complete the frantic coworker's last-minute requests before the big meeting by choosing the correct verb forms.

"The presentation starts in five minutes! Could you _____ if the projector is working? And would you mind _____ me the updated slides right now?"

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- A) check
- B) checking
- C) to check

Blank 2

- A) emailing
- B) email
- C) emailed

15. Select ALL the grammatically correct ways the barista can ask the overly enthusiastic customer to stop.

Excuse me, sir! _____ on the espresso machine glass? It startles the baristas.

Select all that apply.

- A) Would you mind not tapping
- B) Could you please not tap
- C) Would you mind to not tap
- D) Could you not tapping