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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