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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)	Asking for Permission (for yourself)
I wonder if you could? I'd be grateful if you could Could you possibly? Do you think you could?	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.