

Activity Type

Speaking Activity:
asking and answering
questions from prompts,
communicative practice

Focus

Making requests:

Can you...?

Could you...?

Accepting and declining
requests

Aim

To practice making,
accepting and declining
requests.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
cards for every 12
students and cut as
indicated. If you have
more than 12 students
in the class, divide them
into groups.

Put a tick on the back of
half of the cards and a
cross on the back of the
other half.

Level

Elementary (A1-A2)

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

In this making requests activity, students practice making, accepting and declining requests using prompts on cards.

Procedure

Give each student a request card.

Explain that the students are going to use the prompt on their card to make a request.

Go through how to make requests with *Can you...?* and *Could you...?*

Students then practice forming the request on their card using the prompt, e.g. 'Could you tell me the time, please?'

Next, elicit language for accepting and declining requests from the class, e.g. 'Yes, of course.' 'I'm sorry but I can't.'

After that, tell the students that they are going to make and respond to their classmates' requests and their response to each request will depend on whether there is a tick or a cross on the back of the card.

If there is a tick, students accept the request.

If there is a cross, the students decline the request.

Next, students hold their cards so the request and picture prompts are facing towards them and the tick or cross is facing away.

Students then go around the class making, accepting and declining requests with as many different partners as possible.

When the students have finished, they exchange cards and repeat the activity, but this time they hold their cards the other way around so the request and picture prompt are facing away.

Students then go around the class, making a different request each time they speak to a classmate.

tell me the
time



help me
carry these
boxes



make me a
cup of coffee



give me
some money



call me a taxi



get me some
milk from the
shop



close the
window for
me



help me
with my
homework



take a
picture of us



make me a
sandwich



open the
door for me



pass me my
mobile phone

