

Asking someone to do something ...

3	Could you	open the door for me, please?			
1	Can	you	lend me	a few euros?	
3	Could			€25.00?	
3	Could you possibly			€1,000?	
4	I wonder if you could Is there any chance you could				
1	Can	I	borrow	your	pencil? car? yacht? plane? wife for the night?
				€5,000?	
2	Is it OK if Is it alright if		put my feet on your desk? have the afternoon off? take my shirt off? kiss your hand?		
	3		Do you mind if May	call you by your first name? use your bathroom/telephone?	
4	I wonder if I	might could possibly			

Lots of possible answers! CHOOSE the appropriate one for the situation in hand. NB:

1) "Well" really means "No".

e.g. A) "Could you lend me €50?" B) "*Well, I'm a bit short myself.*"

2) Refusing is not always easy. Use "I'm afraid" to soften the blow.

e.g. A) "Any chance I could borrow your car this evening?"

B) "*Well, I'm afraid I need it myself.*"

3) Use these to give a polite but formal refusal:

e.g. A) "Do you mind if I smoke?" B) "*(Well), I'd rather you didn't.*" (simple past)

4) These are equivalent: "I'd prefer you (not) to go." & "I'd rather you went/didn't go."

5) A POSITIVE response to "Do you mind if ..." is "NO"!

e.g. A) "Do you mind if I use your phone?" B) "*No, of course not.*"

6) A NEGATIVE response to "Do you mind if ..." is probably best done with

e.g. A) "Do you mind if I smoke?" B) "*(Well), I'd rather you didn't.*" (simple past)