

# I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T DO THAT!

Miss Tapper: Good morning, Mr Cheetham.

*Mr Cheetham: Good morning, Louise. I'm going to be **out** of the office all **day** today.*

Miss Tapper: Oh really, Mr Cheetham. What **would** you **like** me to do **while** you're out?

*Mr Cheetham: **Look/Well**, I've made a list of jobs for you. The most urgent **thing/one** is to type these letters up.*

Miss Tapper: **Shall** I make a copy of each **one** before I post them?

*Mr Cheetham: Actually, I'd like **you** to make two copies of **each** one. **Put/Leave** one on my desk and send the **other(s)** to the MD.*

Miss Tapper: Is there anything **else** you'd like me **to** do?

*Mr Cheetham: Yes. This report **needs** faxing to Budapest as **soon** as possible.*

Miss Tapper: Of course, Mr Cheetham.

*Mr Cheetham: And **take** any phone messages for me, but don't **make/schedule** any appointments while I'm away. If it's **urgent**, take the number and tell the **caller** I'll get **back** to him or her tomorrow.*

Miss Tapper: When exactly **will** you be back, Mr Cheetham?

*Mr Cheetham: I'll **be** here in the morning at the **usual** (normal) time.*

Miss Tapper: Don't **worry**, Mr Cheetham. I'll make **sure** everything's done.

*Mr Cheetham: Oh, **by** the way, if my wife calls, I'd **rather** you didn't tell her I'm not here. Just say I'm in a meeting all day!*

**A Make a list of things that Mr Cheetham: 1. wants 2. doesn't want Miss Tapper to do:**

**B Match the following statements to the people talking in the situations on the right:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 I'm sorry, Sir, but you can't leave it here. <b>i</b>            | <i>a a football manager to his team</i>         |
| 2 I'd rather you didn't use the phone for personal calls. <b>j</b> | <i>b a mother to her teenage daughter</i>       |
| 3 Don't you dare touch my CD player. <b>f</b>                      | <i>c a man carrying parcels to a stranger</i>   |
| 4 You'd better not be late! <b>a</b>                               | <i>d a secretary to a visitor to the office</i> |
| 5 I don't want you to take it too fast. <b>h</b>                   | <i>e a store buyer to his supplier</i>          |
| 6 Please don't make a mess in the kitchen. <b>b</b>                | <i>f a father to his ten-year-old son</i>       |
| 7 Could you open the door for me please? <b>c</b>                  | <i>g a driving instructor to a learner</i>      |
| 8 Would you like to follow me? <b>d</b>                            | <i>h a piano teacher to a pupil</i>             |
| 9 I'd be grateful if you could expedite delivery. <b>e</b>         | <i>i a traffic warden to a motorist</i>         |
| 10 I'd like you to take the first left at the roundabout. <b>g</b> | <i>j a manager to his secretary</i>             |

**C Explain why the expressions on the left in exercise B are used in each case.**

**D Mr Cheetham is giving a long list of jobs to his secretary. What exactly does he want her to do?**

**E His secretary can be rather careless. Mr Cheetham often has to remind her what not to do.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. 'Fax this letter to Manchester as soon as possible.'    | 1. 'Please don't use the office phone for private calls.'     |
| 2. 'Shred this letter from the Company Chairman.'          | 2. 'Don't give anyone a copy of the sales report yet.'        |
| 3. 'Arrange a meeting with the sales reps at 11.00.'       | 3. 'Please don't be late back from lunch today.'              |
| 4. 'File this report on the latest sales figures.'         | 4. 'Please don't leave your nail varnish on my desk.'         |
| 5. 'Post these letters to our new client in Angers.'       | 5. 'Don't leave any windows open when you go home.'           |
| 6. 'Make me a dozen photo-copies of this report.'          | 6. 'Don't leave coffee-cups on the photo-copier.'             |
| 7. 'Call the caretaker to repair the lock on my door.'     | 7. 'Don't spend too long on the phone.'                       |
| 8. 'Get me £300 in Swiss Francs from the bank.'            | 8. 'Don't wait too long before booking my table.'             |
| 9. 'Take this shirt to the dry-cleaners in Sloane Street.' | 9. 'Don't open any letters marked 'personal!''                |
| 10. 'Get me Sir Jack Cunningham on the phone.'             | 10. 'Don't tell anyone I'm in until you check with me.'       |
| 11. 'Book me a table at Maxim's for 20.00 tonight.'        | 11. 'Don't send out <u>any</u> letters with Tipp-Ex on them!' |
| 12. 'Call my wife and tell her I'll be late home today.'   | 12. 'Don't tell my wife I'm having dinner with Fifi tonight!' |

**F Go through exercise E again, this time being more polite and using: "I'd rather you ..."**