

Requesting Permission: Can, Could, May

FORM:

<p>Can Could + Noun + Base Verb May</p>
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USE:

This structure is used to ask if something is permitted or allowed. “**May**” and “**Could**” are used in more formal situations. “**Can**” is used in informal situations, where the speaker and listener know each other well, or have equal amounts of authority.

EXAMPLES:

Can I have another piece of cake?
Could I leave work early?
May I ask a question?

Decide how formal each situation is, then write sentences to request permission using CAN, COULD, or MAY.

1. You are at a friend’s house, and want something to drink.

2. You would like to use your roommate’s computer.

3. You can’t come to class tomorrow and want to ask the teacher for tomorrow’s homework now.

4. You want to order some coffee and cake in a restaurant after dinner.

5. You call your doctor’s secretary to make an appointment with your doctor.

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6. You want to borrow your classmate's dictionary for a short time.

7. You are asking your boss if you can have a day off on the weekend.

8. The classroom is very hot and the windows are all closed.
