

Polite questions using “do you mind...?”

We can use ‘do you mind...’ to make many requests more polite. There are two different structures.

1. “*Do you mind if I*” + verb. This is a more polite form for “could I..?” (asking if you can do something)

E.g. *Do you mind if I open the window?*

2. “*Do you mind*” +verb + ing. This is a more polite form of “could you...?” (asking if someone else can do something for you)

E.g. *Do you mind opening the window?*

Note: You can say “Do you mind..?” or “Would you mind...?”, but “Would you mind + if” is followed by a verb in the past tense. E.g. “*Would you mind if I sat here?*”



1. Look at the “could you” and “could I” questions below and change them into “Do you mind..?” questions

a) Could I call you back later?

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b) Could you help me with my homework?

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c) Could you explain that again?

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d) Could I get a window seat?

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e) Could I take a photo of your car?

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f) Could you bring me a knife and fork?

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g) Could I use your bathroom please?

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 2. Look at the situations below and create a “do you mind” question for each situation.

- a) You are going on holiday to an English-speaking country. The staff on the airplane only speak English. Politely ask one of them to bring you some headphones.
- b) You are in a window seat, but would like to close the window. The man next to you is staring out the window. Politely ask him if you can close the window.
- c) You get to your hotel and are paying the taxi driver. You have a lot of coins. Ask him if you can get rid of some coins.
- d) At the hotel the receptionist tells you the wifi password, but it's very long and confusing. Ask them to write it down.
- e) Later that night somebody is playing loud music in the room next to yours. You are trying to sleep. Ask them to turn down the music.
- f) The next day you are catching a taxi again. You have some food you are eating, and you're not sure if it's ok to eat in the taxi. Ask the driver.
- g) You're at a popular tourist spot, but a flower salesman is trying to sell you flowers. He is very pushy and rude. You have said "no" at least 10 times. Ask him to leave you alone.
- h) You need to charge your phone. Go into a local café and ask if you can charge your phone.
- i) You are leaving the hotel, but you need someone to give you a hand with your bags. Politely ask a staff member.

 3. You are having a party at your house. Think of five “do you mind” questions to make at the party.

e.g. *Do you mind taking your shoes off?*

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