

Making Requests/Asking and Giving Permission

UNIT 5

Objectives



On Completion of this unit you will be able to –

- use 'can' and 'could' to ask for permission and make requests
- give or refuse permission and respond to requests

Overview

- LESSON 1 : Planning a Picnic**
LESSON 2 : Nishu and Her Bag
LESSON 3 : Patenga Beach
LESSON 4 : Revision and Test

ANSWER KEY

Planning A Picnic

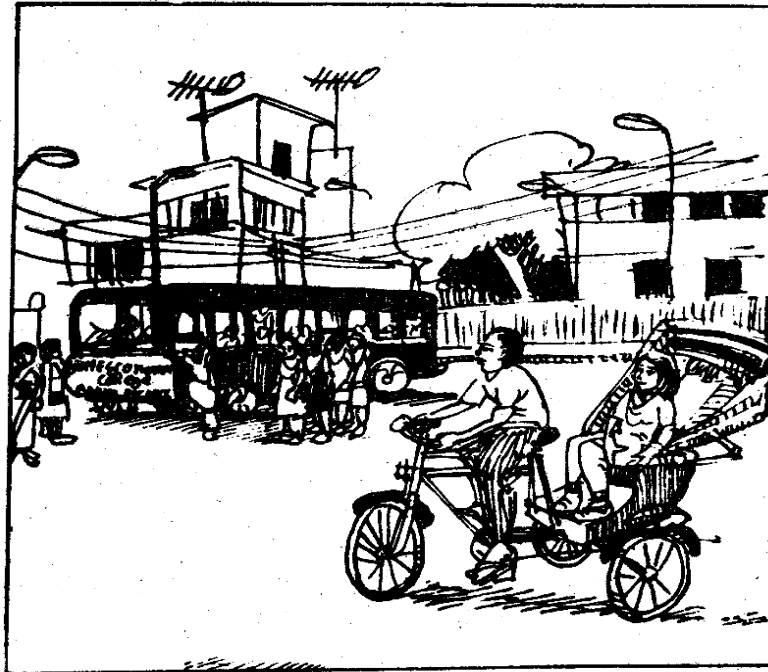
LESSON

1



Look at the picture and try to answer these questions orally.

- 1 What can you see in the picture?
- 2 Would you like to go to a picnic?
If yes, where and when would you go?



B

Read the story carefully.

PLANNING A PICNIC

Maliha and Saleha are good friends. They are in the same class. They visit each other at weekends. On one such occasion when Saleha was on her way to Maliha's place, she saw a bus parked on one side of the road. The banner on it read :

Home Economics College, Dhaka

Annual Picnic

Venue : Kotbari, Comilla

Date : Dec. 25, 1994

That gave her an idea.

At Maliha's house the two friends sat and talked over a cup of tea.

- Saleha : Maliha, I find life boring.
Why don't we do something?
- Maliha : That's right. Do you have anything interesting in mind?
- Saleha : Yes, how about a picnic?
- Maliha : That's a good idea. Where?
- Saleha : Say, Sonargaon, we'll fix all that up in school.
- Maliha : But first, I must get my mother's permission.
- Saleha : Right, I must do the same.

A few days later, before going to school Maliha talked to her mother about it.

- Maliha : Mother, our class is planning to go for a picnic next Friday.
Can I join them?
- Mother : Where will you be going?
- Maliha : To Sonargaon. We want to visit the museum there.
- Mother : Will your teachers be going too?
- Maliha : Yes mother, all our teachers. Class 9 students also want to come along. So it's a combined picnic for Classes 9 and 10.
- Mother : All right. You can go.

C



Read and note.

- weekends : the end of every week,
i.e. Friday in our country.
- on one such occasion : on an occasion like this, i.e. on a Friday.
- Maliha's place : Maliha's house.
- a bus parked : a bus waiting/stopped.
- banner : A piece of cloth on which a slogan or some information is written (or a picture).
- annual : yearly.
- venue : place where something happens.
- over a cup of tea : while having a cup of tea.
- boring : uninteresting, বিরজিকর, একঘেঁয়ে
- How about ...? : a way of proposing an idea.
- say : suppose.
- Can I join them? : a good way of asking (for) permission.
- combined : joined together.



Read B again and choose the correct answer.

- 1 Maliha and Saleha visit each other
 - a) every month.
 - b) at the weekends.
 - c) everyday.

- 2 One day, on her way to Maliha's house, Saleha saw
 - a) a bus parked on one side of the road.
 - b) an accident between a car and a bus.
 - c) some people carrying a banner.

- 3 It was Saleha who proposed that
 - a) she and Maliha should go shopping.
 - b) Maliha should get her mother's permission.
 - c) they should go for a picnic.

- 4 The school picnic was supposed to be held at
 - a) Kotbari, Comilla.
 - b) Home Economics College, Dhaka.
 - c) Sonargaon, Dhaka.

- 5 The first thing the two girls must do about going for a picnic is to
 - a) get their mother's permission.
 - b) select a date and venue for the picnic.
 - c) decide on what they should wear.

- 6 The reason for selecting Sonargaon as a venue for the school picnic is that
 - a) many students live around that place.
 - b) the students want to visit the museum there.
 - c) it is not far from school.



Read B again and answer the questions first orally and then in writing.

- 1 How have Maliha and Saleha become good friends?
- 2 Where were the students of Home Economics College going?
- 3 Where did Maliha and Saleha make the final plan for the picnic?
- 4 When will they go for a picnic?
- 5 What made Maliha's mother give her daughter permission to go for the picnic?



Read the sentences carefully.

	Situation	Asking for permission	Reply
1	Rehana wants to have chocolate. She asks her mother	Mother, can I have a chocolate, please?	No, you can't.
2	Sajan wants to go to his friend's birthday party. He asks his mother	Mother, Can I go to Asif's birthday party?	Yes, you can.
3	Mita wants to borrow her friend's pen. She asks	Can I borrow your pen, please?	Yes, you can.
4	Raihan wants to play with a knife. He asks his father	Father, can I play with this knife?	No, you can't.
5	Abed wants to use his boss, Mr Rahman's calculator. He asks	Could I use your calculator, sir?	Yes, you can.
6	The students of Class 8 want to use their classroom after school hours for music lessons. They ask the headmistress	Madam, could we use our classroom after school hours for music lessons please?	No, you can't.
7	Mr Huq's neighbour is suddenly ill. Mrs Jamal wants to take him to hospital immediately. But she can't get an ambulance or any public transport. So Mr. Huq's permission to use his car.	Mr huq, could we use your car, please, to take Mr Jamal to hospital?	Yes, you can.

In the situations given above notice how **Can I/ Could I/we** is used to take permission and to give or refuse permission. In both cases the answer is **Can/Can't, i.e., Yes, you can/No, you can't.**



Read the situations below. Use Can I/ Could I to ask for permission / make requests and give appropriate answers with Yes/No.

- 1 Luna wants to give her skipping rope to her friend, Kanta. She asks her mother
- 2 Rana wants to borrow his friend Jamil's motorbike. He asks
- 3 Maneez wants to make a phone call from Mr Rahman's office. He says
- 4 Jafar wants to have a cup of tea. He says
- 5 Seema wants to go to the Cinema. She asks her mother



Write five situations in your daily life in which you need to get permission using can/could. Also write appropriate answers.

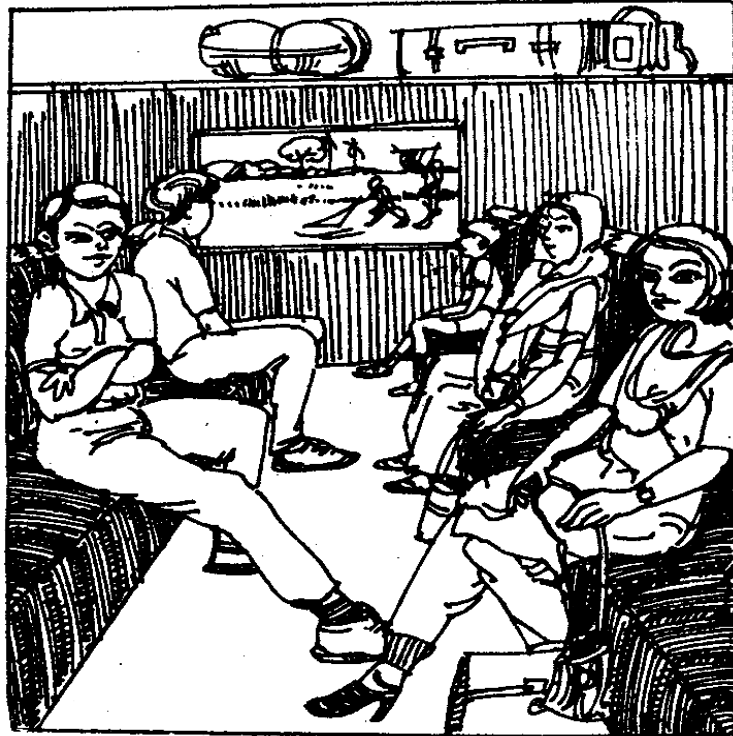
Nishu and Her Bag

LESSON

2



Loot at the picture. Say the names of all the objects/things you can see in it.



Read Nishu's story carefully.

Nishu was travelling by train from Dhaka to Chittagong. She was carrying a big suitcase and a bag of gifts for her mother, four brothers and three sisters. She had come from New York, USA to attend the wedding of her younger brother, Maqsood.

The train started moving. Nishu could see the trees, the green paddy fields and some little boys fishing. They all seemed to run in the opposite direction. Nishu wanted to be a little more comfortable. She could not find room for her feet because her bag was in the way. She tried to move it, but it was too heavy. She asked the man on the other seat to help her.

"Excuse me. Please could you put my bag on the upper berth, there?" she said. The man readily agreed "Sure", he replied. Then he lifted the bag up and put it on the berth. Nishu thanked him and asked his name. "Kamal", he said.

Nishu and Kamal talked for quite some time. At one stage of their conversation, they discovered they were related. Kamal was a distant cousin to Nishu. He was a close friend of her uncle, Eshan. He asked Nishu, "Could you give me Eshan's address please, I haven't seen him for ages".

"Oh sure", came the prompt reply. Nishu then took out her diary from her bag and gave him the address.

C



Read and note.

upper berth	:	in a railway compartment it is the upper seat on which people sleep on night journeys.
readily	:	immediately/without discussion
lifted the bag up	:	ব্যাগটি উপরে তুলেন।
conversation	:	আলাপচারিতা
discovered	:	came to know/found out
prompt	:	quick
for ages	:	for a very long time

D



Read Nishu's story in section B and write T for true, and F for false statements. If false, give the correct answer.

- 1 Nishu was travelling from Dhaka to Sylhet.
- 2 She was carrying a big suitcase and a handbag.
- 3 She had come to attend the wedding of her elder brother, Maqsood.
- 4 Nishu asked Kamal to help her with her bag.
- 5 Kamal asked for Nishu's address.

E



Read the story in section B and rearrange these sentences in the correct order.

- 1 They talked for some time.
- 2 Nishu wanted to be a little more comfortable, but she couldn't because of her bag.
- 3 Kamal asked for Eshan's address.
- 4 The train started moving.
- 5 Nishu took out a diary from her bag and gave him the address.
- 6 She asked for help.
- 7 Through the window Nishu could see a lot of things that seemed to run in the opposite direction.
- 8 The man on the other seat helped her put her bag on the upper berth.
- 9 They discovered that they were related.
- 10 Nishu asked the man his name and he replied, "Kamal".



Read the following situations and requests carefully.

Situations		Requests
1	Mr Zaman wants to find out at a bank counter if five taka notes will be banned. The man at the counter replies with a request.	Could you find it out from the head office, please?
2	A newcomer in Jhenidah wants to know the way to the post office.	Could you tell me the way to the post office, please?
3	A lady is looking for the principal's room. She asks the college bearer.	Excuse me, could you please show me the principal's room?
4	A student in class 5 is not feeling well. He goes to the Headmaster and says,	Sir, could you please phone my mother and ask her to come and take me home?

In the situations given above we notice how polite requests are made to people (strangers, seniors/bosses etc.). Notice also the use of **please** with **could you ...** '.



Now make requests for the situations given below :

Situations :

- 1 Badal is a newcomer in Rangpur. He wants to know the way to Carmichael College.
- 2 Rokeya has arranged a party for her colleagues. She wants Seema to phone Mr Salam and find out if he will be coming.
- 3 Mrs Hussain is a doctor. She isn't at home when the fish vendor comes. She requests Mrs Khan, her neighbour, to buy some fish for her.
- 4 A little boy is suffering from a breathing problem. His mother asks the doctor if he could give her son medicine for his cold.
- 5 A concerned father asks the class teacher to show his son's exercise book to him.



G

*Read the last three paragraphs of the text in **B** and find out the situations and the language used to make requests and give answers.*



S

Now think of five situations in your life in which you made requests to others. Use 'Could you, please . . . ?' and the answers.

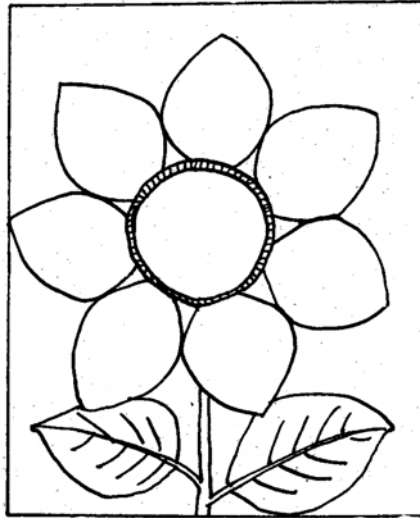
Patenga Beach

LESSON

3



A Think of a visit to the sea-side/beach. Look at the flower below and fill in the petals with words related to the sea shore/beach. One is done for you.



B

Read the story carefully.

PATENGA BEACH

Nishu and her family went to spend an evening at Patenga Beach in Chittagong. They were a big group of ten – five grown-ups, three



teenagers, and two children, Saif and Sama. Their mother Sakina and father Latif were also in the group. Nishu's sister Mita and her two sons, Yusuf and Yunus, were also with them. The two boys took their football and started playing with it on the smooth, sandy beach. Saif and Sama started running, and their mother also ran with them. Nishu, Mita and her husband walked close to the water. They enjoyed the sea wind. Their noses became cold and their lips felt dry. The waves washed their feet, giving them a pleasant feeling.

The beach was crowded with visitors in colourful clothes. Nishu looked at the people around her, and then she looked at the blue waters of the Bay of Bengal. She turned to her sister and said, "Mita, look at the ships over there. Don't they look like paper boats floating on a big tub?" Mita was cracking peanuts. She offered some to Nishu and her husband. She replied, "Yes, they do, especially against the horizon. Why don't you write a poem about them?" Mita's husband, Kaiser added, "Yes Nishu, can you write a poem for me, please? "I'll frame it and think of you when you're not with us". Nishu smiled and replied, "I'll try to do what you ask". Then she added, "But you'll have to do what I want first". "What is it?" asked Kaiser. "Can you take a picture of the two of us against the setting sun, and another picture of the crabs running in and out of their holes?" requested Nishu. "Certainly, my camera is loaded, and I can take as many pictures as you want," replied Kaiser. Nishu thanked him.

C



Read and note.

grown-ups	: adults
teenagers	: peoples whose age is between 13 and 19
smooth	: not rough, like silk
pleasant	: good
big tub	: a large vessel, usually round, used for washing clothes or giving babies a bath.
cracking peanuts	: চিনাবাদাম ভাঙা
horizon	: seem to meet
crabs	: কাঁকরা
loaded	: It means here : the camera now contains a new reel of film.

D



Read B and choose the best answer.

- Nishu and her family went to Patenga Beach to spend
 - a weekend.
 - an evening.
 - a holiday.
- The ten people in the group are
 - 3 grown-ups, 5 teenagers and 2 children.
 - 4 grown-ups, 3 teenagers, and 3 children.
 - 5 grown-ups, 3 teenagers, and 2 children.
- Saif and Sama are the children of
 - Sakina and Latif.
 - Mita and Kaiser.
 - Misha and Khokon.

- 4 The sea wind felt cold. This is clear from the sentence
 a) 'They enjoyed the sea wind.'
 b) 'Their noses became cold and their lips felt dry'.
 c) 'The waves washed their feet'.
- 5 Patenga Beach stands on the
 a) Indian Ocean.
 b) River Padma.
 c) Bay of Bengal.
- 6 Mita and Kaiser requested Nishu to
 a) write a poem.
 b) take a picture.
 c) tell them an interesting story.
- 7 'Can you take a picture of the two of us?' Here "the two of us" means
 a) Sakina and Latif.
 b) Yunus and Nishu.
 c) Mita and Nishu.



E

Answer these questions first orally and then in writing.

- 1 Nishu went to Patenga Beach in a group of ten people. Who were the other nine people in the group?
- 2 Who are Yusuf and Yunus? Which age group do they belong to?
- 3 What did Mita offer Nishu and Kaiser?
- 4 What two pictures did Nishu request Kaiser to take?
- 5 Did Kaiser do what she asked?



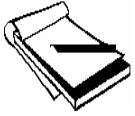
F

Read these sentences carefully.

- 1 Can you shut the window, please?
- 2 Rabeya, can you give me a cup of tea?
- 3 Can you wait till I come back?
- 4 Can you go to the bank and pay my electricity bill?

Notice the use of **can** to make requests in the sentences above. In sentence 1, the word, **please** is used to make the request seem more polite. The other three sentences without please are also requests. Can you is used to make requests in informal situations when the answer expected is more positive.

*Go back to section **B** and find out the language used to make requests. How many requests can you find in the text? Write them down.*



9

Read the following situations and make requests for each case. Use Can you ...?

Situations :

- 1 Shaheen asks her husband to take their baby, Tania, for a walk.
- 2 Novera asked her friend to come to the party at 5:00 so that they could finish the rest of the work together.
- 3 Amreen asks her brother Shayer to turn off the TV.
- 4 Russel asks his mother for a ten taka note.
- 5 Naveed asks Zeeshan to bring his football for the game.
- 6 Sameer wants Naushad to show him his album.
- 7 Tilat wants to learn from Zeba how to prepare egg noodles.

Example :

- 1 Can you take Tania for a walk?
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7



5

Now make five requests with Can you ...? to your parents and friends. Write them down.

Revision and Test

LESSON

4

A



For each of the following situations use Can I or Could I/We to ask and to give or refuse permission.

- 1 After the party Zareen wants to open her presents. She asks her mother
- 2 Kamran wants to go out and play football. He asks his mother
- 3 Bela wants to wear her mother's saree at the wedding party. She asks her mother
- 4 Shaila wants to borrow her friend's pencil. She asks her friend
- 5 Meher wants to take Tameem to her friend's place. She asks Tameem's mother for permission
- 6 Mr Hasan asks permission from the Chairman to start the meeting. He says

B



Use Could you/Can you to make requests in the following situations. Also give appropriate answers.

- 1 Mr Matin asks his neighbours to stop shouting at each other.
- 2 Mrs Matin looked at her son's report card and found some problems with certain marks. She requested the Headmaster to show her his maths and English answer scripts.
- 3 Sureya and Mr Brown will both attend a meeting in the evening. Sureya asks Mr Brown to pick her up at 5:00. Mr Brown agrees.
- 4 Shezan is listening to very loud music. Ali is studying for his exams. So he asks Shezan to turn down the volume (sound). Shezan refuses.
- 5 Use the situations in '4', but this time Ali's father is making the same request to Shezan's father who agrees to turn down the volume.
- 6 Zeeshan's mother asks him to get her a pen and some paper.
- 7 The Rahmans are going to spend their winter holidays in Cox's Bazar. They ask their neighbour, Tareque to look after their house till they come back. Tareque agrees.
- 8 Asif and Arif are fighting for a balloon. Asif has snatched Arif's balloon. Their mother asks Asif to give it back to Arif. Asif refuses.

KEY *LESSON : 1*

A

- 1 A road. A girl on a rickshaw, and a picnic bus on the other side of the road. A queue of girls getting on the picnic bus.
- 2 Yes, I would. I would like to go to _____ this winter.

B

- 1 b 2 a 3 c 4 c 5 a 6 b

C

- 1 Maliha and Saleha are both in the same class. So they meet each other in class everyday and have become good friends. They meet each other at the weekends too.
- 2 The students of Home Economics College were going for a picnic to Kotbari, Comilla.
- 3 Maliha and Saleha made the final plan for the picnic with their teacher and others in school.
- 4 They will go for a picnic next Friday.
- 5 Maliha's mother gave her daughter permission to go for the picnic when she heard that her teachers would be going to the picnic too.

D

- 1 Mother, can I give Kanta my skipping rope?
— Yes, you can.
- 2 Jamil, can I borrow your motorbike please?
— No, you can't.
- 3 Could I use your telephone please?
or
Could I make a phone call please?
— Yes, you can.
- 4 Can I have a cup of tea please?
— Yes, you can.
- 5 Mother, can I go to the cinema please?
— No, you can't.

5**Some examples :**

- 1 Mother I'm going to school. Can you give me some money?
— No, I can't.
- 2 This curry is testless. Can you pass me the salt?
- 3 Sir, my pen is not working. Could I borrow your pen please?
— Yes, you can.
- 4 Excuse me, could you tell me the way to the post office please?
— Yes, I can.
- 5 Can I have some hot water for a bath?
— No, you can't. Wait till I finish cooking.

KEY **LESSON : 2****A****Suggested answer :**

In the picture I can see a young lady, a young man and some other passengers in a railway compartment. Through the window we can see a few trees and paddy field.

B

- 1 F. Dhaka to Chittagong
- 2 T.
- 3 F. Younger brother.
- 4 T.
- 5 F. For Ehsan's address.

C

(Sentences rearranged according to sequence)

- 1 The train started moving.
- 2 Through the window Nishu could see a lot of things that seemed to run in the opposite direction.
- 3 Nishu wanted to be a little more comfortable, but she couldn't because of her bag.
- 4 She asked for help.
- 5 The man on the other seat helped her put her bag on the upper berth.
- 6 Nishu asked the man his name and he replied, "Kamal."
- 7 They talked for sometime.
- 8 They discovered that they were related.
- 9 Kamal asked for Ehsan's address.
- 10 Nishu took out a diary from her bag and gave him the address.



- 1 Excuse me. Could you please tell me the way to Carmichael College?
- 2 Could you please ring up/phone Mr Salam and find out if he will be coming?
- 3 Could you please buy some fish for me?
- 4 Could you please give my son some medicine for his cold?
- 5 Could you please show me his exercise book?



(On two situations requests are made)

- 1 Nishu wanted to put her bag on the upper berth but she couldn't because it was too heavy. So she asked Kamal, "Excuse me. Could you please put my bag on the upper berth, there?"
- 2 Kamal wanted to know the address of his friend, Ehsan's address? So he asked Nishu, "Could you please give me Ehsan's address? I haven't seen him for ages".



Do your work and show it to your tutor.

LESSON : 3



(Other words related to the sea-side are)

sand	sea	wind	roar
waves	sea shells	crabs, etc.	



1 b 2 c 3a 4b 5 c 6a 7c



- 1 The other nine people who went to Patenga Beach with Nishu were Sakina, Latif and their two children, Saif and Sama, Mita, her husband Kaiser and their two sons, Yusuf and Yunus. The other person whose name is not mentioned in the story is perhaps another teenager who is a friend of Yusuf and Yunus, because "three teenagers" are mentioned in the story.
- 2 Yusuf and Yunus are the sons of Nishu's sister Mita and her husband Kaiser. Yusuf and Yunus are teenagers.

- 3 Mita offered some peanuts to Nishu and Kaiser.
- 4 The two pictures that Nishu asked her brother-in-law, Kaiser to take were :
 - a) a picture of Nishu and her sister, Mita against the setting sun, and
 - b) a picture of the crabs running in and out of their holes.
- 5 Yes, he did.



Requests made in the story are :

- Kaiser asked Nishu to write a poem for him. He said, 'Can you write a poem for me, please?'
- Nishu asked Kaiser to take two pictures : one of her with her sister, and one of the crabs. She said, "Can you take a picture of the two of us against the setting sun, and another of the crabs running in and out of their holes?"



- 2 Can you come to the party at 5:00 so that we can finish the rest of the work together?
- 3 Shayer, can you turn the TV off?
- 4 Mother, can you give me a ten taka note?
- 5 Zeeshan, can you bring your football for the game?
- 6 Naushad, can you show me your album?
- 7 Zeba, can you show me how to prepare egg noodles?



Do your work and show it to your tutor.

LESSON : 4



- 1 Mother, can I open my presents now?
 - Yes, you can.
- 2 Mother, can I go out and play football?
 - No, you can't. It's too early.
- 3 Mother, can I wear your saree at the wedding party please?
 - Yes, you can, but see that you don't spoil it.
- 4 Can I borrow your pencil please?
 - No, you can't. I'm using it.

- 5 Can I take Tameem to my friend's place?
— Yes, you can.
- 6 Sir, could we start the meeting now?
— Yes, please.



- 1 Could you please stop shouting at each other?
— All right.
- 2 Could you show me my son's Math and English answer scripts please?
— No, I can't. It's against school rules.
- 3 Mr Brown, could you pick me up at 5:00 for the meeting please?
— Yes, I can.
- 4 Shezan, can you listen to the music quietly? I'm studying for my exams.
— No. I can't.
- 5 Could you ask your son to turn down the volume? My son is studying for his exams.
— Yes, all right.
- 6 Zeeshan, can you get me a pen and some paper?
— Yes, I can, mother.
- 7 Tareque, can you look after our house till we come back from Cox's Bazar?
— Yes, I can.
- 8 Asif, can you give the balloon back to Arif?
— No. I found it under the bed.