Say It Politely

Source: March, Studio Classroom

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Who wants to share an opinion on why politeness is important?



Me, me, me!
Pick me!
Pick me!



Yes. Chris?



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Say It Politely

- Why so
- How to say it
- Types of discourses
- Practice:

  Situation talk



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Why So

Use language to do things

Show politeness

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Functions of Language

1. Literal meaning
2. Underlying meaning

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How to Say It

Different contexts contribute to different meanings

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Speech Act

Directness vs. Indirectness

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Examples

What's your problem?

May I help you?
How can I help you?

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1. Use the typical association between sentence forms and speech acts.

	declarative	interrogative	imperative
assertion	*He washed the dishes*		
question		*Who washed the dishes?*	
order/request			*Do the dishes (please)!*

2. Use the performative verbs performatively.

speech act	verb that names the speech act	example
assertion	assert	*I assert that he washes the dishes.*
question	ask	*I ask who will wash the dishes.*
order	order	*I order you to wash the dishes.*
request	request	*I request that you wash the dishes.*
promise	promise	*I promise that I'll wash the dishes.*
advice	advise	*I advise you to wash the dishes.*

Source: ELLO

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How to make an indirect speech act

	declarative	interrogative	imperative
assertion		*1. Is the pope Catholic?* *2. Is ice old?*	
question	*1. I want to know who washed the dishes.* *2. I do not know who washed the dishes.*		*1. Why don't you leave?*
request	*1. The dishes are not washed yet.* *2. I would like for you to wash the dishes.*	*1. Can you wash the dishes?* *2. Would you mind washing the dishes?*	

Source: ELLO

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Situations

- Making requests
- Offering an opinion
- Turning down an invitation
- Don't accuse

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Making Requests

- Say “May I…/Can I…/Could I…”

  instead of imperative sentences

  like “Give me …”

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Offering an Opinion

Use the negative form of positive words instead of negative form

e.g. “I don’t think it’s the best idea.”

“It is a lousy idea.”

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Turning down an invitation

If you cannot accept an invitation, do refuse it directly, but say “positive first” plus your answer

e.g. I’d love to, but …

I am afraid I can’t because …

That sounds great, but …

I can’t. I’m busy.

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Don't Accuse

- Avoid to accuse others

e.g. Say “Maybe I need to clarify what I mean” instead of you don’t understand me.

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Activity

Read the situation and act it out

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Role play

Situation:

The class is really noisy, so you cannot concentrate on studying. Ask your classmates to keep the voice down.

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Role play

Situation:

You left a shirt on the chair, but someone sits on it without noticing it.

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Role play

Situation:

You are invited to go to a birthday party. However, you have a lot of homework to do today, so you cannot make it.

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Role play

Situation:

You find that your group members cannot do the presentation good enough and you want to offer some suggestion

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Role play

Situation:

Your friend is angry at you for your speaking ill of him/her. Try to make the situation right.

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