

http://pedagogie2.ac-reunion.fr/cyberprofLV/telechargements/podcaz_audio/anglais/87-getting_people_to_do_things.mp3



PodCaz audio # 87: Functions of English (Leo Jones)

Getting people to do things: requesting, attracting attention, agreeing and refusing

Brenda: Ah, right, here we are !

Bob: This is the place I was telling you about.

Brenda: Yeah, could you ask the waiter if we can sit near the window?

Bob: Er, yes, of course. Er, waiter!

Waiter: Good evening, sir.

Bob: We'd like to sit near the window if that's possible.

Waiter: Er... Ah! ... er ... I'm afraid all the tables there are ... are taken. Would you mind sitting near ... nearer the bar?

Bob: Oh, yes, alright. That suit you?

Brenda: Mm, fine.

Bob: Good.

Waiter: Thank you, sir.

Bob: Now let's have a ... er ... oh, I ... I don't seem to have any cigarettes on me. Have you got a cigarette by any chance?.

Brenda: I'm awfully sorry, but you see, I've given up.

Bob: Oh, you've stopped smoking at last. Well done!... Oh well, let's have a look at the menu, then. Um...oh, there isn't a menu... er ...er..., do you think you could ask the people at the next table if we could look at their menu?

Brenda: Yes, of course. Um... excuse me, could you possibly let us see your menu? Oh, they haven't got one either.

Bob: Er, oh, I'll ...I'll ask the people at this table. Um, I wonder if you could possibly let us have a look at your menu... Thank you!... Ah, here we are, then. Now, what's on? Um, ... oh, "Soup of the Day" – well, I wonder what that is.

Brenda: I wonder what “Mexican Dressing” is.

Bob: Oh, sounds interesting... where’s the waiter gone, we’ll order ...er... I can’t see ...

Brenda: He’s over there.

Bob: Oh, could you possibly catch his eye?

Brenda: Yeah. Um, waiter!

Waiter: Yes, madam.

Bob: Ah, waiter... um, I wonder if you could tell me what “Soup of the Day” is, please.

Waiter: Certainly, yes. “Soup of the Day” is Cream of Asparagus.

Bob: Ah, that sounds nice.

Brenda: Mm, could you tell me what “Mexican Dressing” is?

Waiter: Ah, “Mexican Dressing”, yes. That’s one of our specialties. That’s hot, spicy and sweet. It’s very nice, I recommend it.

Brenda: Oh!

Waiter: Er ... now ... could I ... I wonder if I could possibly ask you to move to a table near the window after all? It’s ... er ... it turns out the manager tells me this table’s reserved.

Brenda: Oh yes, sure.

Bob: Of course, by all means.

Requesting

Here are some useful ways of requesting. They are marked with stars, according to how polite they are.

* Hey, I need some change for the phone.

Oh dear, I haven't got any change for the phone.

I don't seem to have any change on me.

** You haven't got 10p, have you?

Have you got 10p by any chance?

*** You couldn't lend me 50p, could you?

Do you think you could lend me 50p?

I wonder if you could lend me 50p

**** Could you possibly lend me your cell phone?

Do you think you could possibly lend me your cell phone?

I wonder if you could possibly lend me your cell phone?

***** I hope you don't mind my asking, but I wonder if it might be at all possible for you to lend me your car?

Agreeing

Sure.

I'd be glad to.

Why, yes, of course.

By all means.

Refusing

I'm awfully sorry, but you see...

I'd like to say yes, but ...

I'd really like to help you, but ...