

## MODEL VERBS FOR LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS: OFFERS, INVITATIONS, REQUESTS, PERMISSION

### 1: OFFERS

Offering food / drink

**Would you / anyone like...?** | a cup of tea?  
an omelette?

Offering to do things for others

**I / we can** | carry your bag.  
**How may/can I/we?** | help you?  
**May / Can I / we?** | help you?  
**Shall I / we?** | take your shopping?

### 2: REQUESTS

Asking for something

**Can I/we have ?** | a glass of water, please?  
**Could I/we have ?** | a receipt, please?  
**May I/we have ?** | those postcards, please?

Asking people to do something

**Can you ?** | wait a moment please?  
**Could you ?** | tell me where the post office is?  
**Would you?** | call the bank ?  
**Will you? - Possible but not common**  
**Would you mind + ING?** | **telling** me where the train station is, please?

### 3: PERMISSION

Asking for permission

**Can I / we?** | borrow your pen?  
**Could I / we?** | use your phone?  
**May I / we?** | come in?

Giving and refusing permission

Sorry, **you can't** | borrow my pen.  
Yes, **you may** | use my phone.  
| come in.

### 4: INVITATIONS

**Would you / anyone like...?** | to come for dinner on Friday night?  
**Will you?** | join us for coffee?

**USES:** We can use can, could, may or might depending on the situation.

**In general:**

- **Can** is the most informal.
- **Could** is more polite than can.
- **May** is more formal than can and could
- **Might** is the most polite but the least common.

**GRAMMAR NOTE:**

**Modal Verb + BARE INFINITIVE**

**Could** you tell me where the train station is, please?