

Saying it right

2 Choosing the right words

a) Put the phrases into two groups – 'polite' and 'not so polite'.

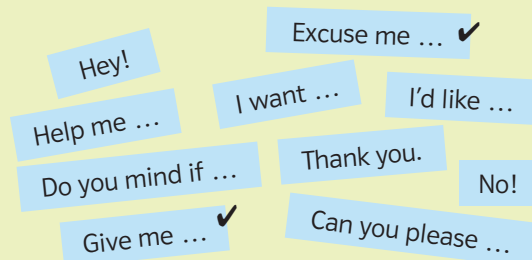
POLITE:

NOT SO POLITE:

Excuse me ...	Give me ...

TIPP

In Großbritannien wird sehr viel Wert auf Höflichkeit gelegt. Die Deutschen wirken dort manchmal unhöflich und zu direkt. Hier kannst du üben, wie du dich höflich auf Englisch ausdrückst.



b) Look at the scenes in the pictures. What do you think the people are saying? Make short dialogues with your partner. Try to use some of the 'polite' phrases from a).



3 When you don't know a word ...

a) Explain these words to a partner. The words in the boxes will give you some ideas. Does he/she find out what you mean? Partner A starts with sentence 1, partner B goes on with sentence 2, etc.

Example: "I'll leave a message on your (Anrufbeantworter) – er – the thing that answers the phone."

TIP

Sometimes you don't know a word, but you can usually say what you mean in other words.

PARTNER A

1. Excuse me, I'm looking for a (Jugendherberge) – well a ...
3. If you compare English and German schools, I think there's a big (Unterschied) ...
5. My cousin is a terrible (Plaudertasche) – I mean, ...
7. Let's put the tea into a (Thermoskanne) – er ...

2. Can I use your telephone card, please? I must make a (Anruf) ...
4. Oh dear, I can't find my (Schlüssel), er ...
6. My neighbour goes to a (Internat), well a ...
8. Excuse me, I'm looking for a (Briefkasten) – er ...

PARTNER B

b) Think of two more things and explain them to your partner.