



Multibhashi



# Making Requests



# Class Objective

To learn how to make polite requests and polite answers.



## Concept A : Making polite requests.

1. A common way is to turn the command into a question. If we include “por favor” at the end of the question, the addressee will perceive it as even more polite.
  - Cierra la puerta. Close the door (imperative, too aggressive)
  - ¿Puedes cerrar la puerta, por favor? Can you close the door, please?



## Concept A : Making polite requests.

2. A different option is to use different verbs to express our need or desire. The most typical ones are “querer” and “poder”.

a) **Querer (to want).** We can use this verb in present tense, but we need to add “por favor” (please) at the beginning or the end of the sentence not to be considered too rude.

– Quiero un sandwich, por favor. (I want a sandwich, please.)



## Concept A : Making polite requests.

b) **Poder (to be able to, can).** We use “poder” in present tense to make requests. “Poder” can be used with a “Would you mind...” sense too.

– ¿Puedes cerrar la ventana, por favor? (Can you close the window, please?)

– ¿Puedes enviarme las notas, por favor? (Can you send me the notes, please?)



## Concept A : Making polite requests.

### 3. "A Ver Si" as a Gentle Request

The phrase **a ver si** can be used to form the gentlest of requests.

Although it is close in meaning to the English "let's see if," it can be translated in a variety of ways.

- A ver si estudias más. (Perhaps you could study more.)
- A ver si comamos juntos un día. (Let's eat together some day.)
- A ver si tocas el piano. (Let's see if you can play the piano.)



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