

# WOULD AND COULD FOR MAKING REQUESTS

## Requests

We use **could you ...** and **would you ...** as polite ways of telling or asking someone to do something:

**Could you take** *a message, please?*

**Would you carry** *this for me, please?*

**Can** and **will** are less polite:

**Can you take** *a message, please?*

**Will you carry** *this for me, please?*

## Offers and invitations

We use **can I ...** to make offers:

**Can I help** *you?*

**Can I do** *that for you?*

We can also use *shall I ...*:

**Shall I help** *you with that?*

**Shall I call** *you on your mobile?*

We sometimes say **I can ...** or **I could ...** or **I'll (I will) ...** to make an offer:

**I can do** *that for you if you like.*

**I could give** *you a lift to the station.*

**I'll do** *that for you if you like.*

**I'll give** *you a lift to the station.*

We use **would you like (to) ...** for invitations:

**Would you like to come round *tomorrow*?**

**Would you like *another drink*?**

***Reference:***

British Council (s.f.). Requests, offers and invitations. Retrieved from:  
<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/english-grammar-reference/requests-offers-invitations>

