Unit 2 · Asking for Permission

HARDER PRACTICE QUESTIONS · ANSWER KEY

Full marks 29

Give the marks for the points in the marking scheme; an answer in other words that says the same is right.

1 Do you mind? No, not at all!

ANSWER HA · 6

Tests: *Do you mind if I…?* asks whether it will bother you, so *No* and *Not at all* give permission, *Yes, I do* refuses; *Sure, go ahead* is understood as permission from its meaning, not its words; a kind *Yes!* can be taken the wrong way; *Are we allowed to…?* asks about a rule, so it goes to the person who knows the rules.

a. After answers **1, 3 and 5.** (Answers 2 and 4 refuse.)

b. *Do you mind…?* asks "Will it bother you?" Taken exactly, *Sure* means "Yes, it will bother me", which is a refusal. People understand *Sure, go ahead* from its **meaning** (go ahead = do it), so it gives permission all the same. The answer that fits the question's words is *No, not at all*.

c. Pemba might **not open the window**, or ask again. *Yes* to *Do you mind…?* means "Yes, it bothers me", so he hears a refusal. She should have said ***No, not at all*** (or *No, I don't mind*; *Please do*).

d. **The conductor**, with ***Are passengers allowed to…?*** Whether goats may come on the bus is a **rule** of the bus, and the conductor knows its rules. *Do you mind if I…?* only asks whether it would bother the woman beside her; she could say *Not at all*, and the goat could still be put off the bus.

MARKING SCHEME

✓ a. 1, 3 and 5 (all three, no others).
✓ b. Its words answer "yes, it bothers me"; it is understood from its meaning, *go ahead*.
✓ c. He may not open it, because *Yes* means it bothers her.
✓ c. *No, not at all* (or *No, I don't mind*).
✓ d. The conductor.
✓ d. *Allowed to* asks about a rule; *Do you mind* only asks whether it bothers one person.

2 A chicken, or chicken?

ANSWER

Tests: whether a noun is countable depends on what it means in the sentence (a whole animal or meat, one object or a material, one event or what you know); an uncountable noun is counted by a piece or a container; *a coffee* is one cup, a serving, but *advice* has no serving.

a.

1. ***a chicken***: a live (or whole) **bird**, perhaps walking about the kitchen! ***chicken***: chicken **meat**, food for cooking.
2. ***a glass***: **one drinking glass**, a thing. ***glass***: the **material** windows are made of.
3. ***experience*** (uncountable): what you **know** from having done something. ***an experience*** (countable): **one event** that happened to you.

b. **three pieces of advice · two slices of bread** for breakfast (or *two pieces of bread*) · **five pieces of furniture** (or *five chairs*, *tables*…) · **four pieces of luggage** (or *four bags*)

c. *Coffee* is uncountable as a drink, but *a coffee* also means **one cup of coffee**, a serving, so *two coffees* means two cups. *Advice* has no such meaning: there is no "one serving" of advice, so it is always counted with *a piece of*: *two pieces of advice*.

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MARKING SCHEME HA · 7

- ✓ a. 1: a live bird / meat.
- ✓ a. 2: one glass (a thing) / the material.
- ✓ a. 3: what you know from doing it / one event.
- ✓ b. *pieces of advice*, *slices (or pieces) of bread*.
- ✓ b. *pieces of furniture*, *pieces of luggage* (or *bags*).
- ✓ c. *A coffee* means one cup, a serving.
- ✓ c. *Advice* has no serving, so it needs *a piece of*.

3 What's in the kitchen?

ANSWER A · 6

Tests: *some* in positive sentences, *any* in negatives; *how much* with an uncountable noun, *how many* with a plural noun, including a unit you can count (*kilos*); *some* in a question that offers something, when the speaker expects *yes*.

a. ***There isn't any rice.*** · ***There are some eggs.*** (only two) · ***There is some oil.*** (a little) · ***There aren't any onions.*** · ***There is some salt.*** (a whole jar) (*There is no rice* and *There are no onions* mean the same, but the task asks for *any*.)

b. ***How much rice do you want?*** · ***How many eggs do you want?*** *Rice* is uncountable, so it takes *how much*. But a **kilo** can be counted (one kilo, two kilos), so *how many kilos of rice* counts the kilos, not the rice. *How many rice* is wrong: *rice* is uncountable (no *a rice*, no *rices*), so *how many* has nothing to count.

c. Ujwal's mother isn't asking for information: she is **offering** tea, and she expects the answer *yes*. Questions that offer or ask for something take *some*: *Would you like some tea?* *Any* goes in ordinary questions, when you don't know the answer: *Is there any tea left?*

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. *isn't any rice*, *aren't any onions*.
- ✓ a. *some eggs*, *some oil*, *some salt*.
- ✓ b. *How much rice*, *How many eggs*.
- ✓ b. Kilos can be counted, rice can't, so *how many kilos* but *how much rice*.
- ✓ c. It is an offer.
- ✓ c. An offer, expecting *yes*, takes *some*; *any* is for an ordinary question.

4 The phone wrote it wrong

ANSWER A · 5

Tests: homophones sound the same, so a word must be spelled by its meaning in the sentence; a spelling check only finds words that don't exist.

a. principle → **principal** (the head of the school) · by → **buy** (pay for) · fare → **fair** (a science fair, a show) · fair → **fare** (the price of the ticket) · heel → **heal** (get well) · Right → **Write** · our → **hour** · hole → **whole** (all of it) · sight → **site** (the place where the fort is)

b. Each wrong word is a **real word**, spelled correctly. The phone only checks that a word exists, not whether it is the right **meaning** in that sentence.

c. A model: *Our **principal** has one **principle**: never be late.* (*principal*: the head of a school; *principle*: a rule or belief.)

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. Any three right: 1 mark.
- ✓ a. Any six right: 1 more mark.
- ✓ a. All nine right: 1 more mark.
- ✓ b. They are real words; the check doesn't look at meaning.
- ✓ c. A sentence with *principal* as the head of a school and *principle* as a rule or belief.

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5 Asking Didi

ANSWER HA · 5

Tests: a letter asking permission persuades: it answers the reader's own worries with facts, one by one, and then asks politely; the ways of asking (*May I…?*, *Can I…?*, *Is it okay if I…?*, *Do you mind if I…?*); a friendly letter's greeting and closing, each with a comma.

a. A model:

Mother and Father say I can go on our class trip to Janakpur if you agree. I know you are worried, so let me answer you. This time I won't carry much money: the trip costs Rs. 2,500, and the school keeps it for our food and the hotel. Two teachers are coming with us, and they will look after us all the time. And the exams start three weeks after the trip, so I will have plenty of time to revise. So, may I go, please? Is it okay if I go, if I promise to study every evening when I come back?

b. ***Dear Didi,*** and ***With love,*** (or *Your loving brother,*), then his name. *Yours faithfully* is for a **formal** letter to someone whose name you don't know (*Dear Sir/Madam*); this is a friendly letter to his own sister.

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. The money worry answered with a fact (the school keeps the money).
- ✓ a. The care worry (two teachers) and the exam worry (three weeks later) answered.
- ✓ a. Asks permission in two different ways, correctly formed.
- ✓ b. *Dear Didi,* and a friendly closing, each with a comma.
- ✓ b. *Yours faithfully* is formal, for a reader you don't know.

Marks by level	Knowledge	Understanding	Application	Higher ability	Total
Marks	0	0	11	18	**29**

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