

How to soften an order?

Instead of using an imperative, you can use an introductory phrase. Here are some common ways of rephrasing an order.

Would you mind...?

This is the most polite form. Note that would you mind...? is followed by a noun or an -ing form.

Would you mind waiting for an hour?

Would you mind doing the dishes?

Would you mind moving a bit? (= Please move a bit.)

Would you mind opening the window? (= Please open the window.)

Would you mind walking to the railway station?

Would you mind helping me with the housework? (= Please help me with the housework.)

I was hoping...

I was hoping you could spare me a few minutes.

I was hoping you could lend me ten dollars.

I was hoping you could help me with the homework.

Do you think you could ... (+ infinitive without to)

Do you think you could type these letters for me?

Do you think you could help me with the housework?

Do you think you could sweep the floors?

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Do you think you could cook the dinner?

I'd like you to...

This phrase is used to make a more direct request. It is more like an order than a request.

I'd like you to clean these windows for me.

I'd like you to help me with the housework.