

Lesson 4- (Class IX-X) Offering and Requesting Materials Designed by BRAC University Centre for Languages (CfL)

Hospitality in Different Cultures!

Hospitality is the care and kindness we provide and show to the guests, visitors, strangers or tourists. Bangladeshis are very hospitable. They like to treat guests with good food. Similarly, in other cultures people do many interesting things as part of their hospitality. Let us learn how people show hospitality in different cultures:

Japanese people are well known for their hospitality. They usually invite guests home at the weekend to the evening dinner. Before the guests arrive they clean and tidy-up their house, even spray water in the front garden and the entrance hall, to welcome their guests with cleanliness. They serve traditional Japanese meals to foreign guests. Another thing that shows their hospitality is that when the guests leave, the Japanese host waits at the door until he/she can't see the guests any more.



The South-East Asian people are also very friendly. Each and every member of the family comes to greet the guests. They like to serve their best dishes to their guests. The womenfolk of these countries show their warmth through food and never let guests go away from their house unfed or dissatisfied.



Throughout Africa guests are given the place of honour. They are treated with respect and courtesy. Nobody will ask you about the purpose of your visit; rather they will greet you warmly, offer you a seat and give water in a coconut shell. After a while, they will invite you to a dinner and serve you their traditional specialties. Later, they will take you to show their village and the chief and other important persons will welcome you. They will tell you all about their traditions, customs and legends.



The Chinese people are even more hospitable. They like to serve guests with the best food they have. At nights they will even give up their own bed for you. They will take you to sightseeing also. Chinese people, both young and old are kind and generous, regardless of wealth. They are so friendly that you will feel at home with them.



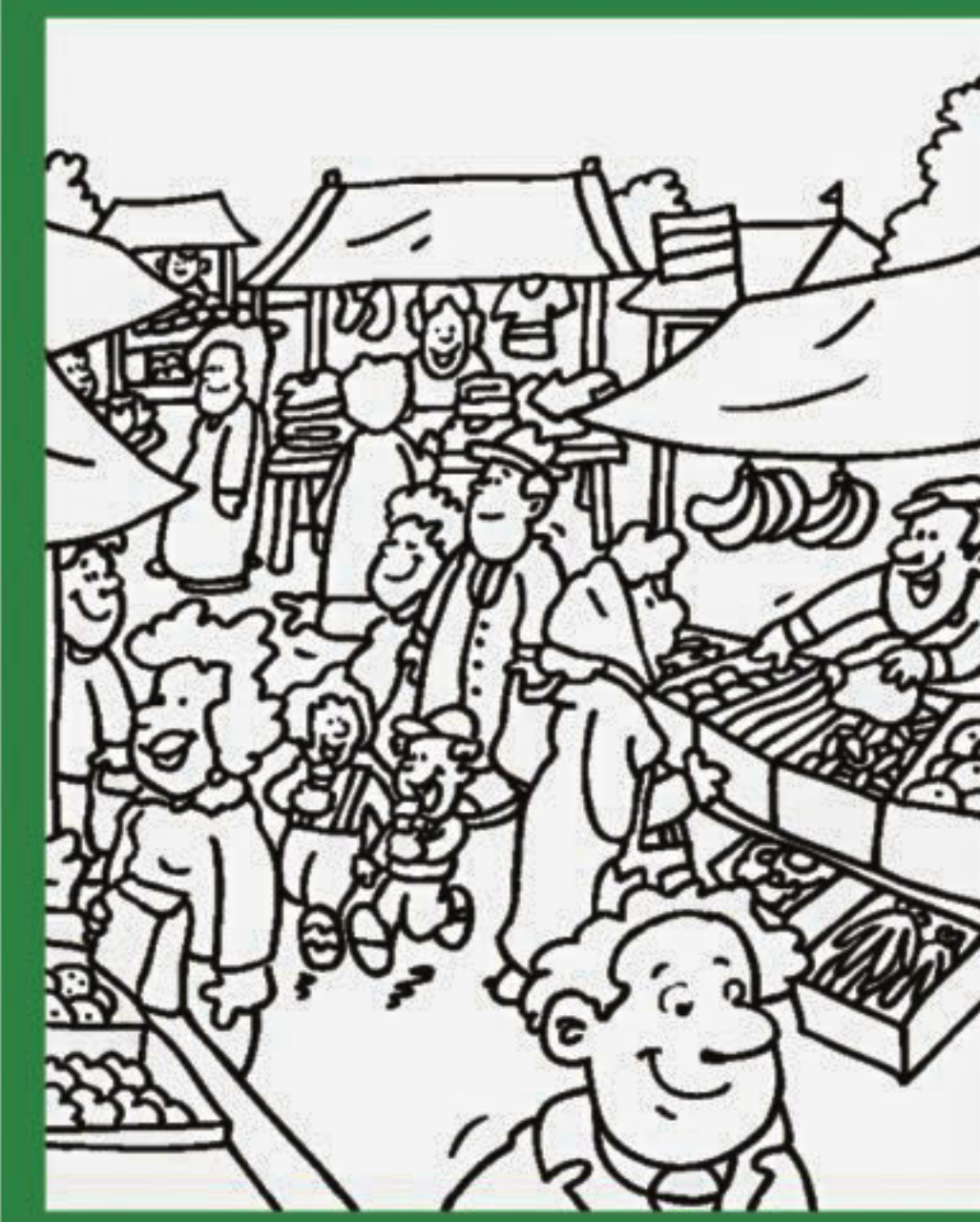
Here, you can see a list of requests and the ways of accepting and rejecting them.

Requesting	Accepting	Rejecting
Would you like me to do the work for you?	Yes, that would be very kind of you!	That's very kind, but no, thank you!
Shall I ask them to go to the field?	Yes, please!	No, thank you!
May I offer you a cup of coffee?	Yes, that would be very nice!	No, thank you!
Do you need another clue?	Yes, that would be helpful.	No, Thanks!
Can I give you some more sugar?	Yes, please!	No, it's okay.
How about getting together after the class?	That sounds great!	Umm, sorry! I will be busy then.
Would you give me a ring after dinner?	Yes, that's not a problem.	I'm sorry! I will be busy then.
May I have your pencil, please?	Yes, of course!	I'm sorry, I have only one.
Could you please help me for a minute?	Yes! That's not a problem at all!	I'd love to, but I am busy right now.
Can you turn off the radio	No problem!	I'm sorry, I can't.

Game!!

Find the difference.....

There are 10 differences in these two pictures. Can you find them and write in English? You will get the answers in the next issue.



Vocabulary of the Week

Generous (adjective): willing to give money, help, kindness, etc., especially more than what is usual or expected

Legend (noun): a very old story or set of stories from ancient times, not always true, that people tell about a famous event or person

Sightseeing (noun): the visiting of interesting places, especially on holidays

Tidy-up (noun): making a place or a collection of things clean and organised

Womenfolk (plural noun): the women in a family or society

[www.dictionary.cambridge.org]

Tips

We usually express our requests and offers by using **modals** such as can, could, would, may, shall, will etc. in an interrogative sentence.

When we make a **request** in an **informal** situation, we use 'can' and 'would'. For example,

'Can I borrow your pen?'
'Would you give me a book please?'

To make a **request** in a **formal** situation, we use 'could', 'may', 'would' etc. For example,

'May I use your computer?'
'Could I speak to Mr. Zaman please?'
'Would you mind giving me the address?'

To make an **offer** in an **informal** situation, we use 'can'. For example, 'Can I offer you a cup of coffee?'

In a formal situation, you can make an offer by saying

'Would you like me to arrange a meeting?'
'Shall I ask them to come in?'

To **accept** an offer you can say ok, sure, all right, certainly, yes, of course etc.

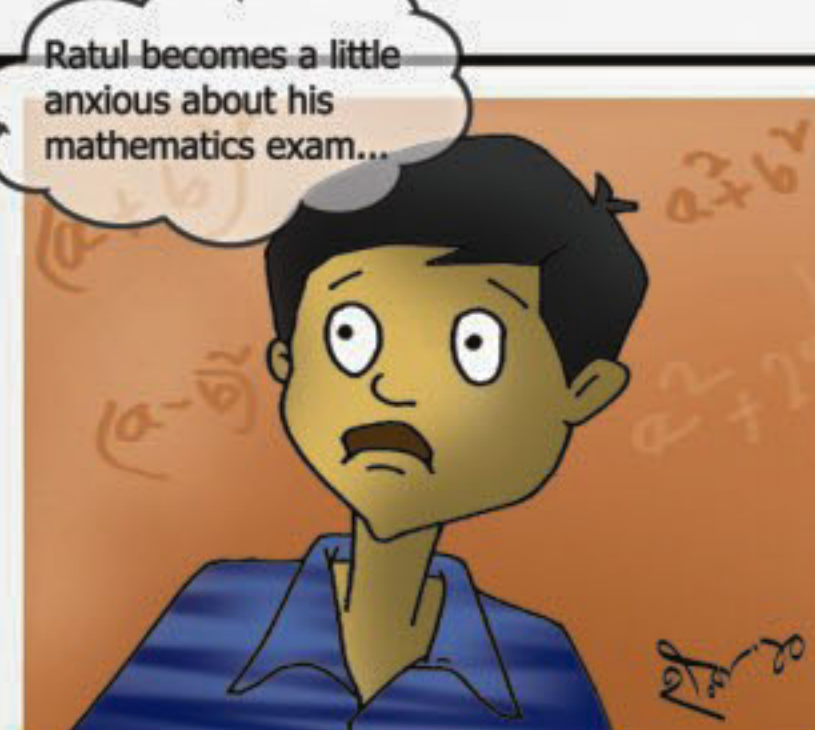
'Sure, I would love to.'
'Certainly, that would be great.'

To **refuse** an offer give an explanation and say politely -

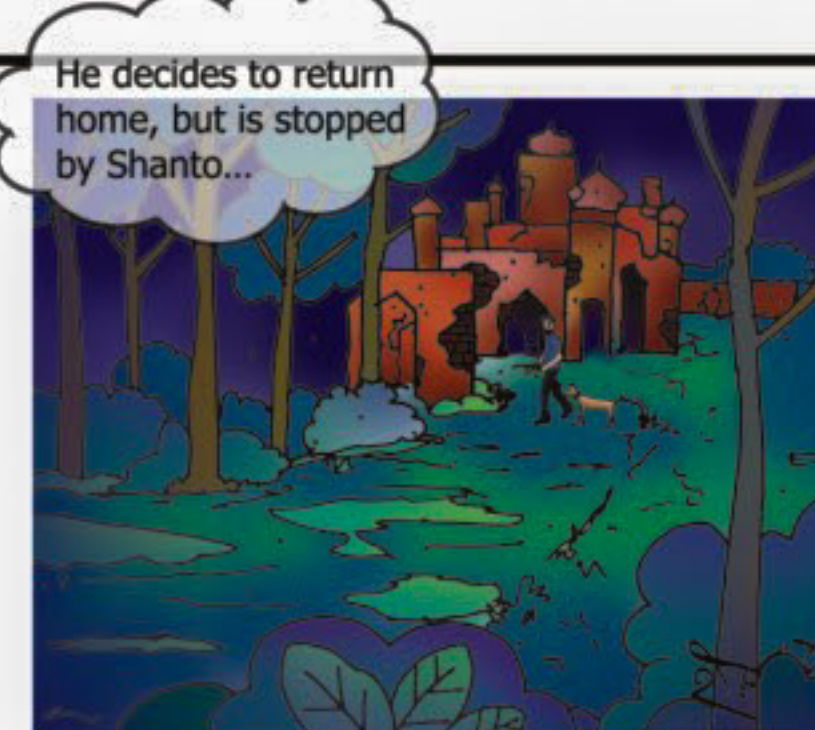
'I'd (I would) like to, but I have to go to the doctor this evening.'
'I'm afraid, I can't.'



Illustration : Yousuf Ali Khan hira



Ratul becomes a little anxious about his mathematics exam....



He decides to return home, but is stopped by Shanto...



Shanto desperately tries to show him something inside the ruined building.



Ratul gets confused. He takes a few moments to decide whether he should enter the building...



Let's take a pledge against drug abuse

Drug addiction is a matter of grave concern. It isolates one from the family and eventually from the society.

Join hands, say NO to drug abuse.

