**Activity Type**
Speaking activity

**Language Focus**
- Asking permission
- Giving and refusing permission

**Aim**
To practice asking, giving and refusing permission using cards as prompts.

**Preparation**
Make one copy of the cards for every 12 students and cut as indicated. If you have more than 12 students in the class, divide them into groups.

Put a tick on the back of half of the cards and a cross on the back of the other half.

**Level**
Elementary

**Time**
20 minutes

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### Introduction

In this rewarding speaking activity, students practice asking, giving and refusing permission using cards as prompts.

### Procedure

Give each student a card.

Explain that the students are going to use the prompt on their card to ask permission to do something.

Go through how to ask permission with the class, e.g. 'May I...?' 'Can I...?' 'Do you mind if I...?'

Have the students practice asking permission using their cards as prompts, e.g. 'May I leave class early, please?'

Now, tell the students that they are going to respond to each other's question. Explain that their response will depend on whether there is a tick or cross on the back of the card.

If there is a tick, students give permission. If there is a cross, the students refuse permission.

Review and practice language for giving and refusing permission with the class, e.g. 'Sure, go ahead'. 'I'm sorry, but that's not possible'.

Next, have the students hold their card so the permission prompt is facing towards them and the tick or cross is facing away.

Students then go around the class asking, giving and refusing permission with as many different partners as possible.

Afterwards, tell the students to repeat the activity, but this time they hold their card the other way round so the permission prompt is facing away.

The students then go around the class, asking permission to do different things each time they speak to a classmate. The students continue in this way until they have spoken to as many different partners as possible.
May I...

- leave class early
- take this chair
- have some more ice cream
- borrow your calculator
- bring my friend to the party
- have a drink of water
- open the window
- turn on the fan
- submit my homework tomorrow
- ask a question
- call you back
- use your mobile phone