

⇒ 5 simple expressions that make you sound more polite in Chinese

#1

请 qǐng Please

Example 1:

qǐng gěi wǒ yī bēi kā fēi.

请给我一杯咖啡。

(Could you) please give me a cup of coffee(?)

Example 2:

qǐng zuò xià!

请坐下!

Have a seat please. / Please, sit down.

#2

请问 qǐng wèn

lit. please + ask

May I ask..? / Excuse me

Example 1:

qǐng wèn yī yuàn zài nǎ er?

请问医院在哪儿?

Excuse me, where's the hospital?

Example 2:

qǐng wèn nǐ yǒu líng qián ma?

请问你有零钱吗?

May I ask if you have change?

#3

麻烦你

má fán nǐ

lit. to trouble + you

May I trouble you to..? / Sorry to trouble you

Example 1:

má fán nǐ guān chuāng!

麻烦你关窗!

May I trouble you to close the window?

Example 2:

má fán nǐ gěi tā dǎ gè diàn huà!

麻烦你给他打个电话!

Sorry to trouble you to give him a call.

#4

不好意思

bù hǎo yì sī

lit. not good + meaning

to be sorry (for inconveniencing somebody)

to feel embarrassed (about something)

Example 1:

bù hǎo yì sī, wǒ méi dài qián bāo.

不好意思，我没带钱包。

Sorry, I didn't bring my wallet.

Example 2:

不好意思，我们只收现金。

bù hǎo yì sī, wǒ men zhǐ shōu xiàn jīn.

Sorry, We only take cash.

Example 3:

bù hǎo yì sī, wǒ chí dào le.

不好意思，我迟到了。

Sorry, I'm late.

#5

打扰一下

dǎ rǎo yī xià

lit. to disturb + a bit

Sorry to bother you / Excuse me

Example 1:

dǎ rǎo yī xià, dēng jī kǒu zài nǎ er?

打扰一下，登机口在哪儿？

Sorry to bother you, where's the boarding gate?

Example 2:

dǎ rǎo yī xià, nǐ yǒu kàn dào yī zhǐ hēi māo ma?

打扰一下，你有看到一只黑猫吗？

Excuse me, have you seen a black cat?

FULL POST + VIDEO:

<https://mandarinhq.com/2017/07/polite-chinese-expressions/>

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