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:

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 zhī hēi māo ma?
打扰一下，你有看到一只黒猫吗？
Excuse me, have you seen a black cat?

FULL POST + VIDEO:
https://mandarinhq.com/2017/07/polite-chinese-expressions/

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