

WOULD AND COULD FOR MAKING REQUESTS

Requests

We use **could you ...** and **would you ...** as polite ways of telling or asking someone to do something:

Could you take *a message, please?*

Would you carry *this for me, please?*

Can and **will** are less polite:

Can you take *a message, please?*

Will you carry *this for me, please?*

Offers and invitations

We use **can I ...** to **make offers**:

Can I help *you?*

Can I do *that for you?*

We can also use *shall I ...*:

Shall I help *you with that?*

Shall I call *you on your mobile?*

We sometimes say **I can ...** or **I could ...** or **I'll (I will) ...** to **make an offer**:

I can do *that for you if you like.*

I could give *you a lift to the station.*

I'll do *that for you if you like.*

I'll give *you a lift to the station.*

We use **would you like (to)** ... for invitations:

Would you like to come round *tomorrow*?

Would you like *another drink*?

Reference:

British Council (s.f.). Requests, offers and invitations. Retrieved from:
<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/english-grammar-reference/requests-offers-invitations>

