

## Test Your Grammar Skills

### Polite, Neutral, or Rude Language 3

Read the situations below and decide which type of language is most likely to be used – polite, neutral, or rude. Compare the different responses and consider why they may or may not be appropriate:

**Situation 9 Buying a train ticket:**

- a) Polite: "Please would you be so kind as to sell me a ticket which will allow me to make a return journey to the fine city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne today? I shall remain forever in your debt."
- b) Neutral: "I'd like a day return to Newcastle, please. I've got a railcard."
- c) Rude: "Give me a ticket for Newcastle. Return? Of course I want a return. I'm not going to stay there indefinitely, am I? How stupid can you get?"

**Situation 10 You are in the pub with your friends, when a stranger accidentally spills your drink:**

- a) Polite: "Oh my goodness! I see that there has been an unfortunate mishap. Allow me to help you mop up the spillage."
- b) Neutral: "Oops. Oh dear. Can you get a towel from the bar to help me clear it up? Thanks."
- c) Rude: "You've ruined my trousers! You idiot! Don't just stand there gawping at me – go and get some towels or something from the bar!"

**Situation 11 You are in the park, when you see some boys throwing rocks at swans:**

- a) Polite: "I really don't think you should be doing that, do you? Now run along, there's good boys."
- b) Neutral: "Er, stop that..."
- c) Rude: "Hey! Stop it! What do you think you're doing? Pack it in! Clear off!"

**Situation 12 Asking a friend if they want to go to the cinema:**

- a) Polite: "Would it be an enormous inconvenience if you were to attend the cinema with me this evening, at a time which will be arranged so as to be mutually agreeable to the both of us?"
- b) Neutral: "Do you want to go to the cinema later?"
- c) Rude: "Liam is busy so I suppose I've got no choice – I'll have to go to the cinema with you. You're paying. And you can get me some popcorn too. A big tub."

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