

## Test Your Grammar Skills

### Polite, Neutral, or Rude Language 4

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 13** While out shopping someone with a clipboard stops you and asks you to make a donation to their charity:

- a) Polite: "Thank you so much for this marvellous and unprecedented opportunity to give to your charitable fund, but unfortunately I am rather late for an incredibly important appointment, so I must now hurry along. Please do forgive me for being unable to spend some moments of quality time speaking with you."
- b) Neutral: "Sorry, I can't stop now. I'm in a bit of a rush."
- c) Rude: "Get out of my way. Can't you see I'm busy? You can stop waving your clipboard at me – I haven't got any money! Why don't you get a proper job anyway?"

**Situation 14** Asking a friend if they will spend two days of their holiday helping you to move house:

- a) Polite: "Would you mind possibly helping me to move next week? I'm really sorry about the timing because I know that you're supposed to be on holiday but I would really appreciate it, if that's OK."
- b) Neutral: "Will you help me move house next week?"
- c) Rude: "To be honest, you're the last person I would trust to be handling any of my valuable belongings, but I'm completely stuck because absolutely no one else is available. I've tried asking my real friends, and they're all busy next week, so I'm reduced to asking you."

**Situation 15** You find out that your partner is having a relationship with someone else:

- a) Polite: "Oh dear, that is rather a shock. Well, I'm sorry that I have evidently been a cause of unhappiness and disappointment to you and hope that you will both be very happy together. Farewell then, darling. I'll see myself out."
- b) Neutral: "Well, how long has it been going on? Yes, I'm a bit stunned. How serious is it?"
- c) Rude: "I knew you were trouble from the moment I set eyes on you! I should never have trusted you in the first place. You can give me back my CDs and all my DVDs! And all the stuff I've bought you – including the diamond engagement ring! Now get out of my house. Get out! OUT!"

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