

Negotiating: accepting and rejecting requests**1 Read the conversations. Which reaction is a really polite way of saying *no*?**

- 1 Would you mind cleaning up the mess in the bathroom? It looks terrible.
 - a Not now, I'm busy. I can do it later.
 - b Sure. Can I do it later? I'm really busy now.
 - c Do you mind if I do it in an hour? I'm really busy now. I'm writing an essay.
- 2 Tony, is it OK if I watch a film?
 - a No way. I'm trying to study. I have a test tomorrow.
 - b Would you mind watching it tomorrow? Or maybe you could put on your headphones? I'm studying for a test.
 - c I'm sorry, I'm having a test tomorrow and I want to study.

2 Complete the conversations with the phrases in the box.

I'd rather you didn't. I'm sorry, but no. No way!

- 1 A: I have a great idea! We could have a party tonight, what do you think?
B: _____ I have a test tomorrow.
- 2 A: Is it OK if I bring some food and drink here?
B: _____ You can't eat or drink in the computer room.
- 3 A: Could I use your computer? I wanted to look for some music.
B: _____ I want to check my e-mail.

3 Work with a partner. Look at the situations below and take turns to have conversations.

- 1 You want to watch a film and your roommate is playing the guitar.
- 2 Your brother left a mess in the kitchen. You want him to clean it up.
- 3 Your roommate did the shopping and left the bags on the kitchen floor.
- 4 You want to study for an exam but your father is watching TV really loud in the living room.
- 5 You are at the movies. Your friend is sitting next to you and eating popcorn noisily.