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Verbs - Modals - Conversation

A man walks into an office. He has a job interview. As he comes closer and closer the receptionist, she says:

Receptionist: May I help you?

Man: Yes, I'm here for an interview with Mr. Dungy. Could you tell him that I'm here.

Receptionist: Sure, one moment. (pause) You can go down the hall. His office is on the right.

Man: Thank you.

The man enters the office.

Mr. Dungy: Go ahead and sit down.

Man: Do you mind if I get a drink of water. It's hot outside.

Mr. Dungy: Absolutely. (pause) Now could you tell me about your work experience?

Man: Yes, I can.

Modals: Conversation – Tidbits

Below you'll find two groups of conversations. On the left, you'll find how native English speakers can play with the uses of modals. On the right, you should fill in the blank for the appropriate responses in public and with strangers.

Can	A: Can you buy me a computer? B: I can, but I won't.	A: Can you mail this letter for me? B: Yeah. Yes, I can. / I'm sorry, but I can't.
Could	A: Could you help me with this work? B: I could.	A: Could you drive me to the doctor? B: Of course. / I can't right now.
Will	A: Will you bring me dessert? B: I can't. I'm going to the dentist. A: That's okay; you can do it after that. B: I'm sorry. I don't like dessert. A: But will you do it for me? B: I might	A: Will you pick up some groceries? B: Sure. Where? / Maybe later. Where? A: At the Ralph's on Hollywood and Western. B: No problem. / That's a bit far. A: Are you sure? B: Absolutely. / Yes, I'm sure. I can't.
Would	A: Would you do me a big favor? B: I would, if I could, but I can't.	A: Would you please close the door? B: Certainly. / Not this time.
Would you mind if	A: Would you mind if I take your credit card and go to the store? B: Would you mind if I took yours?	A: Would you mind taking me to the doctor? B: I'd be glad to. / I have to pick someone up from the airport. Sorry.