

Practicing hedges and softening comments

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Step 1: With a partner, read the following dialogues out loud, then discuss what you notice about each one. How would you feel in each case if you were Speaker A?

1	A: Say, there's a big party happening on Saturday night. Do you want to go with me? B: No, I don't.	5	A: Oh, I really enjoyed that manga you lent me last month. B: Hey! Give it back now!
2	A: Here's your change. Thanks for shopping at Family Mart! Please come again. B: Hey! You didn't give me enough money!	6	A: So, I'll see you at the station on Sunday at noon, right? B: No. I will be late.
3	A: Tell me about your new part-time job! For example, how much money do you make? B: That's private information. I don't want to say.	7	A: May I help you? B: This food I bought yesterday is out of date!
4	A: Oh, wasn't that movie great? I loved it! What did you think? B: It was terrible.	8	A: Hello. What can I do for you? B: Turn down your music! It's too loud!

Step 2: Repeat after your teacher to practice pronunciation of the hedging vocabulary below, then make sure you understand each item. Take notes as needed in the space provided.

Type	Examples	Notes
Modal verbs	<i>can, could, will, would, may, might</i>	
Nouns, adjectives, adverbs	<i>a bit, a good deal, kind of, sort of, about, possible, likely, sometimes, generally, perhaps, possibly, pretty, quite, rather, relatively, slightly, roughly, approximately, somewhat, usually</i>	
Opinion softeners	<i>I believe, I think, I feel, I suggest, I guess, I suppose, If we, If you like, If you wouldn't mind, I'm afraid, I'm sorry, It's not my cup of tea</i>	

Note: Other pronouns can be used here, such as *you, he/she/it, we, they*

Step 3: With your partner, take turns re-writing the replies from Step 1 to make them softer and more polite.

1	<p>A: Say, there's a big party happening on Saturday night. Do you want to go with me?</p> <p>B: No, I don't.</p> <p>=> <u>No, I'm afraid I can't. I'm quite busy then.</u></p>	5	<p>A: Oh, I really enjoyed that manga you lent me last month.</p> <p>B: Hey! Give it back now!</p> <p>=></p>
2	<p>A: Here's your change. Thanks for shopping at Family Mart! Please come again.</p> <p>B: Hey! You didn't give me enough money!</p> <p>=></p>	6	<p>A: So, I'll see you at the station on Sunday at noon, right?</p> <p>B: No. I will be late.</p> <p>=></p>
3	<p>A: Tell me about your new part-time job! For example, how much money do you make?</p> <p>B: That's private information. I don't want to say.</p> <p>=></p>	7	<p>A: May I help you?</p> <p>B: This food I bought yesterday is out of date!</p> <p>=></p>
4	<p>A: Oh, wasn't that movie great? I loved it! What did you think?</p> <p>B: It was terrible.</p> <p>=></p>	8	<p>A: Hello. What can I do for you?</p> <p>B: Turn down your music! It's too loud!</p> <p>=></p>

Did your classmates come up with other good replies? If so, write them in the spaces provided. Finally, practice these replies by reading each dialog aloud with your partner.

Step 4: With your partner, use the role-playing cards to practice giving softer replies in the situations above.