

Interrupting Politely

Discuss 1st!

- Are you a frequent “interrupter”?
 - Do you like to be interrupted?
 - What would be a good reason to interrupt someone?
 - Do you think people in your culture interrupt often?
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Interrupting may seem like a rude thing to do, but in many cases it's necessary and even polite! You may want to interrupt to...

- **Ask for details**
- **Clarify something that was said**
- **Give your opinion about somethings**
- **Deliver a message**
- **Join a conversation**

In many cases, people will appreciate your interruption because it shows that you are listening to them and are interested in what they are saying!

Interrupting

When you plan to interrupt someone, it's important to introduce your interruption with a polite expression:

- *Excuse me...*
- *Sorry to interrupt but...*
- *Excuse me, I have a question....*
- *I'm not sure I understand...*

You can also interrupt with a question:

- *Could I jump in?*
- *Could I add something?*
- *Could I ask a question?*

Being Interrupted

When someone interrupts you, you should let them know their interruption is welcome. This gives them a green light to continue and shows that you are not offended. Use one of these phrases:

- *No problem!*
- *Go ahead!*
- *Sure, what do you think?*
- *That's okay!*

After the interruption is finished, you may want to return to what you were saying before. Do this with one of these phrases:

- *As I was saying...*
- *Back to what I was saying...*
- *Anyway...*
- *To continue where I left off...*