

Making Requests and Suggestions in English: "I want you to...", "I told you to...", "Would like", and "Let's"

Unit 53

Introduction:

Making requests and suggestions is an essential part of communication. This lesson covers four common ways to do this in English: "I want you to...", "I told you to...", "would like", and "let's". Each has different levels of formality and is used in different contexts.



"I want you to..."

(Direct and sometimes less polite):

This structure expresses a strong desire for someone to do something. It can sound demanding or even rude in some contexts, especially with people you don't know well or in formal situations. It implies a sense of authority or expectation.

Structure: I want + you + to + verb (base form) + ...

Examples:

- I want you to clean your room. (Parent to child)
- I want you to finish this report by Friday. (Boss to employee – depending on the relationship, this could be fine or a bit direct)
- I want you to be here on time. (Can sound impatient)



"I told you to..."

(Reporting a past instruction):

This structure reports a previous instruction or command. It's used to remind someone of something they were told to do. It can sometimes imply frustration if the person hasn't done what they were told.

Structure: I told + you + to + verb (base form) + ...

Examples:

I told you to take out the trash! (Expressing frustration)

I told you to call me when you arrived. (Recalling a past instruction)

I told you to be careful. (Giving a reminder about past advice)



"Would like"

(Polite and versatile):

"Would like" is a polite way to express desires, requests, and offers. It's appropriate for almost all situations, from casual to formal.

Structure:

- For requests (you want someone else to do something):
I would like + you + to + verb (base form) + ... (More formal)
- For expressing your own desires:
I would like to + verb (base form) + ...
- For offers (offering something to someone):
Would you like + noun/to + verb (base form) + ...?



Examples of “Would Like”

Request (more formal): I would like you to complete this form, please. (Very polite)

Expressing own desire: I would like to go to Italy next year.

Offer: Would you like a cup of coffee?

Request (less direct but still polite): I'd like you to look into this matter.

Contractions: "Would like" is often contracted to "'d like": I'd like, you'd like, he'd like, etc

"Let's"

(Making suggestions for a group including yourself):

"Let's" is used to make suggestions that include the speaker and one or more listeners. It's an informal but common way to propose a joint activity.

Structure: Let's + verb (base form) + ...

Examples:

Let's go to the cinema.

Let's have some lunch.

Let's study together.

Let's not forget our homework. (Negative form)

Important Note: "Let's" is a contraction of "Let us." It's not used with other people if you are not including yourself.



Key Points

- **Context is key:** The appropriateness of "I want you to..." and "I told you to..." depends heavily on the context and your relationship with the person you are speaking to.
- **"Would like" is generally preferred:** In most situations, especially formal ones, using "would like" is the best option for making polite requests.
- **"To" is essential:** Remember to use "to" before the verb when using these structures (I want you to do something, I told you to do something, I would like you to do something, I would like to do something).

THANKS!

Do you have any questions?

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