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Hey there!



I'm Kim and I'm your guide to the essential conversation skills you need to sound more natural in English.

And who might you be?

ENGLISHWITHKIM.COM

Why You Want to Sound More Polite

Have you ever been told that your language is **too direct**, your tone is **too aggressive**, or that you sound **argumentative** in English?

To sound more polite in English, there are several strategies you can use to **soften your language** while still making your meaning clear.

Using these strategies can help you **sound more tactful and diplomatic** if you pay attention to **stress and intonation**.

#3

Use “not very”

#4

Use qualifiers

Present your idea as a question

Like the last strategy, presenting your opinion, idea, or request as a question can make the other person **feel like his or her perspective is being considered**.

By asking a question that **includes your preference**, you are showing that you are **open to negotiation**, but you've already **suggested what works best for you**.

Use **past and past continuous expressions**

These special expressions **show consideration** of the other person's feelings and demonstrate our own **flexibility**. Placing our opinions in the past suggests that this desire was just a **passing thought**, not a urgent request or demand; this gives the other person **space to respond** without regret.

Native speakers **don't actually hear the past tense** when you use these expressions; instead, they hear the **polite distancing** of the request. They understand that your request is **current**.