

Saying "No" the right way

Sometimes you need to say no often someone makes a suggestion, offers something or asks you to do some thing for them. Of course, saying just "no" can be rather rude. Here are some of the most common ways to say "no" politely – and at least not rudely. When someone asks and then it is polite to first thank, then refuse and then say an often-offering an excuse for not wanting to being able to do something. Just saying "no" is considered very rude behavior.

- Why don't you have some Indian food?
Sorry, but I don't really like Indian food.
- How about taking a nice walk?
I'd really rather not take a walk, this afternoon.
- Would you like to come to the museum with us?
Thank you, but it's not my idea of a fun afternoon out.
- Let's go for a drive
Sorry, I'm not really fond of driving for the fun of it.
- Why don't you stay the night?
That's very kind of you, but I really have to get back to the city.
- Would you like to see a movie tonight?
I'm afraid I won't go out tonight. I've got some homework to finish.

Practice the following situations with your partner. Partner A asks the questions and Partner B answers.

1. Your friend wants to go shopping but you don't have the day off.
2. A stranger asks you for \$100.00.
3. A co-worker asks you out for a drink but you don't like him.
4. A co-worker asks you out for a drink you really want to go but you can't.
5. You are asked if you want to donate some money for a person you don't like at work.