

A Polite Question

Level: B1

Read how Aria organises a class visit and finds answers to two important questions. Then try the exercises.

Reading text

Aria's class wanted to visit the town's railway museum before the end of term. Their teacher gave Aria the booking form and asked her to check the details. The museum offered a workshop, but the form did not show its starting time. A student in a wheelchair also needed a route without stairs. Aria found a contact address and began a careful email. She wrote, "Could you tell me when the workshop starts?"

She added, "Do you know if the lift is working this week?" Then she checked her message and removed a third question about the café. The workshop and the lift mattered more to the class than lunch plans. The next morning, a staff member named Luis replied with the missing time. The workshop would start at ten, and the lift was working. Luis also attached a map with an accessible entrance beside the garden.

Aria showed the reply to her teacher, who thanked her for checking early. Her teacher asked, "The workshop starts at ten, doesn't it?" Aria checked Luis's message again and confirmed the time. A classmate asked, "We can use the garden entrance, can't we?" Aria pointed to the entrance on the map and answered yes. She printed the map so everyone could see the route before the trip.

On the day, the group reached the museum fifteen minutes early. The garden entrance was open, and the lift took them to the workshop room. Luis met them there and showed them an old train ticket machine. Aria was glad she had asked before the visit instead of making guesses. After the workshop, the class finally had time for the café. Her classmates thanked her for a trip that felt easy to follow.

Glossary

booking form	a document used to reserve a place
workshop	an event where people learn by doing
route	the way from one place to another
contact address	an address used to ask an organisation a question
lift	a machine that carries people between floors
attached	added a file to a message
accessible	easy to enter or use for people with different needs
confirmed	checked and said that something was correct

Exercise 1: Choose the correct answer

Read the story and choose the best answer.

- What information was missing from the booking form?
 - The workshop's starting time
 - The museum's address
 - The teacher's name

2. What did Aria remove from her email?
a) The lift question b) A question about the café c) The workshop question
3. What did Luis attach to his reply?
a) A train ticket b) A lunch menu c) A map
4. Why did Aria print the map?
a) So everyone could see the route b) To replace the booking form c) To sell it at the museum

Exercise 2: Right or wrong?

Decide whether each statement agrees with the text.

5. Luis said the lift was working. True / False
6. The class arrived late for the workshop. True / False
7. The garden entrance was open on the day of the trip. True / False

Exercise 3: Complete the sentence

Use a word or phrase from the story.

8. Could you tell me when the workshop ____? (indirect question word order)
9. The workshop starts at ten, ____? (positive statement; negative tag)
10. We can use the garden entrance, ____? (positive can; negative tag)

Exercise 4: Listen and choose

Listening: online only.

Exercise 5: Listen and write

Listening: online only.

Answer key

Exercise 1: Choose the correct answer

1. a) The workshop's starting time
2. b) A question about the café
3. c) A map
4. a) So everyone could see the route

Exercise 2: Right or wrong?

5. True
6. False
7. True

Exercise 3: Complete the sentence

8. starts
9. doesn't it / does it not
10. can't we / can we not

Free English worksheet from FluencyRoad — practice this topic interactively at <https://www.fluencyroad.com/reading/a-polite-question>