

Respecting Phone Privacy

Polite ways to set boundaries.

| Learn one phrase per page.

| Play **phrases.mp3** and say each phrase out loud. You'll hear it twice.

| Try the quick check at the end.

I need some privacy there.

You say this when you want time or space without other people seeing or hearing your personal things. The tone is calm, clear, and not angry.

Examples

- I need some privacy while I take this call.
- She said she needed some privacy to think.

You can also say

- Please give me some space with that.
- That's private, so please stay out of it.

Privacy is uncountable, so say "some privacy," not "a privacy." "I need space" can mean time apart, which is different.

Can we talk about boundaries?

You say this to start a serious talk about what is okay and not okay in a relationship, job, or family. It sounds calm but important.

Examples

- Before we move in together, can we talk about boundaries?
- Can we talk about boundaries at work? I feel overwhelmed.

You can also say

- Can we set some ground rules?
- I'd like to talk about what's okay for us.

It sounds serious, so choose a calm moment. It works better before or after a problem than in the middle of an argument.

Those aren't for anyone else.

You say this to remind someone that certain things, like messages or photos, are only for you. The tone is firm and serious.

Examples

- Those notes aren't for anyone else. Please don't share them.
- Those are my private files. They aren't for anyone else.

You can also say

- Those are just for me.
- Nobody else should see those.

"Those" points to things already mentioned or far from you. Without "please," it can sound cold, so soften it with a friendly voice.

Ask first, please.

You say this to ask someone to get your permission before they use or touch your things. It is short, polite, and still clear.

Examples

- Ask first, please. I don't like people using my charger.
- Please ask first before you post my photo online.

You can also say

- Please check with me first.
- Just ask me before you do that.

Without “please,” a short command like “Ask first” can sound sharp. “Ask me first” makes it clearer who must give permission.

Quick check

1. Please knock first. I need some _____
when I change clothes.
danger / mystery / privacy
2. I feel stressed. Can we talk about
_____ with your parents?
boundaries / tickets / umbrellas
3. These photos are private. They aren't for
_____ else.
anyone / anytime / anywhere
4. Ask _____, please. Don't just take my
charger.
first / never / yesterday

Answers: 1 privacy, 2 boundaries, 3 anyone, 4 first

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