

BEING POLITE

“I’m hungry. Give me your extra snack.”

Softening Technique	Examples	Sentence
Making it a question	Could/Would/Can you...? Do you mind...? Would it be possible to...? Would you do me a favor and...? Do you think...?	Do you think you could give me a snack?
Adding a time phrase	When you get the chance... If you have a minute... If you’re available... If you have a spare moment...	When you get the chance, could you give me a snack?
Adding “seem”	It seems like... You seem to... I seem to...	It seems like you have extra snacks. Could I have one?
Adding an “out”	I’m not sure if... It’s okay if you don’t...	It’s okay if you don’t, but if you have an extra snack, could I have one?
Adding “sort of” “kind of” “a little bit”	I’m sort of... You seem a little bit... It could be kind of...	I’m kind of hungry. Do you have a snack?
Adding any additional phrases	I was wondering... I had an idea... I was hoping... If you could... I would be very grateful if... It’d be lovely if...	I was hoping you had an extra snack.
Question tags	...do you? ...don’t you? ... could you?	You don’t have extra snacks, do you?