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## Level 3

### Amazon Alexa to reward kids who say 'Please'

28th April, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

## Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

Technology is now helping to teach children to be polite. Amazon will soon start selling a children's version of its virtual assistant Alexa. The new digital assistant will be called "FreeTime". The child-friendly device will include what Amazon calls a "Magic Word" feature. Of course, there are two magic words: "Please," and: "Thank you." The smart software is programmed to encourage children to say "please" and "thank you" when they ask the device questions. An example of this is if a child asks FreeTime: "What is the capital city of Australia?" Alexa will answer and end its response with: "Thank you for asking so nicely." Amazon hopes this will encourage children to copy the device and be more polite.

Amazon says the new Magic Word feature is to answer the many customers who said technology was teaching children to be rude. Many smart devices simply give out sentences without using any polite words. Parents said children copy this way of speaking and forget to say "please" or "thank you". Children also got used to asking smart devices questions without being polite. Not everyone is happy with this new technology. Josh Golin, executive director of Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, said: "AI devices...interfere with the face-to-face interactions and child-driven play that children need to grow." He believes parents should spend more time with children and teach them politeness.

Sources: <https://slate.com/technology/2018/04/amazon-announces-a-kid-friendly-alexa-freetime-and-echo-dot-kids-edition.html>  
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/columnist/baig/2018/04/25/amazon-echo-dot-kids-alexa-thanks-them-saying-please/547911002/>  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-43897516>

# WARM-UPS

**1. SAYING PLEASE:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about saying please. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

technology / polite / virtual / assistant / child-friendly / device / capital city / copy / feature / answer / sentences / questions / happy / interaction / campaign / parents

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. TECHNOLOGY:** Students A **strongly** believe has a big part to play in teaching children politeness; Students B **strongly** believe it doesn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. POLITE:** How polite should you be to these people and why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How polite?	Why?
Your parents		
Your teachers		
Your best friend		
A religious leader		
A country's president		
A shop assistant		

**5. MAGIC:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "magic". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. RUDE:** Rank these with your partner. Put the rudest things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- not saying 'thank you'
- spitting
- bad language
- talking loudly
- shoes on seats
- cutting in line
- ignoring someone
- using phone at dinner table

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. polite       | a. Using computer software to make something look or feel like the real world.                                 |
| 2. version      | b. Give support, confidence, or hope to someone.   |
| 3. virtual      | c. Showing good manners and speaking nicely to other people.   |
| 4. assistant    | d. A different kind of the same thing (perhaps older, newer, bigger, better, faster, etc.).                    |
| 5. device       | e. Helper.   |
| 6. encourage    | f. A thing made or changed for a particular purpose, especially a piece of mechanical or electronic equipment. |
| 7. capital city | g. The main and most important city in a country.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 8. feature       | h. Get in the way of things or people to stop something happening.    |
| 9. rude          | i. A special part or function of something.                           |
| 10. smart        | j. An organized plan of action to achieve a goal.                     |
| 11. campaign     | k. Person-to-person talking or acting together.                       |
| 12. interfere    | l. Showing bad behaviour, actions or words towards other people.      |
| 13. face-to-face | m. Conversations or meetings between people.                          |
| 14. interactions | n. A machine or computer programmed so that it can act independently. |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Amazon is opening up an online politeness school for children. **T / F**
- b. Software called Magic Word will encourage children to say "please". **T / F**
- c. The software doesn't know what the capital city of Australia is. **T / F**
- d. The software will use polite words when answering children's questions. **T / F**
- e. Amazon customers said technology taught children to be rude. **T / F**
- f. Parents said many devices talked to children without polite words. **T / F**
- g. Everyone is happy with Amazon's new software. **T / F**
- h. A campaign group said children should spend more time with technology. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>polite</b>       | a. naturally      |
| 2. <b>assistant</b>    | b. thinks         |
| 3. <b>of course</b>    | c. mimic          |
| 4. <b>example</b>      | d. pleased        |
| 5. <b>copy</b>         | e. illustration   |
| 6. <b>rude</b>         | f. get in the way |
| 7. <b>happy</b>        | g. well-mannered  |
| 8. <b>interfere</b>    | h. direct         |
| 9. <b>face-to-face</b> | i. helper         |
| 10. <b>believes</b>    | j. impolite       |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Technology is now helping to teach  | a. asking so nicely      |
| 2. virtual                             | b. time with children    |
| 3. the capital                         | c. to copy the device    |
| 4. Thank you for                       | d. rude                  |
| 5. encourage children                  | e. of speaking           |
| 6. the new Magic Word                  | f. children to be polite |
| 7. teaching children to be             | g. interactions          |
| 8. Parents said children copy this way | h. city of Australia     |
| 9. interfere with the face-to-face     | i. assistant             |
| 10. parents should spend more          | j. feature               |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

Technology is now helping to teach children to be (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Amazon will soon start selling a children's version of its (2) \_\_\_\_\_ assistant Alexa. The new digital assistant will be called "FreeTime". The child-(3) \_\_\_\_\_ device will include what Amazon calls a "Magic Word" feature. Of (4) \_\_\_\_\_, there are two magic words: "Please," and: "Thank you." The smart (5) \_\_\_\_\_ is programmed to encourage children to say "please" and "thank you" when they ask the device questions. An (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of this is if a child asks FreeTime: "What is the capital city of Australia?" Alexa will answer and end its (7) \_\_\_\_\_ with: "Thank you for asking so nicely." Amazon hopes this will encourage children to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the device and be more polite.

*friendly*  
*polite*  
*copy*  
*software*  
*virtual*  
*response*  
*course*  
*example*

Amazon says the new Magic Word feature is to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the many customers who said technology was teaching children to be (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Many smart devices (11) \_\_\_\_\_ give out sentences without using any polite words. Parents said children copy this way of speaking and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to say "please" or "thank you". Children also got used to asking smart devices (13) \_\_\_\_\_ without being polite. Not everyone is happy with this new technology. Josh Golin, executive (14) \_\_\_\_\_ of Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, said: "AI devices...interfere with the (15) \_\_\_\_\_ interactions and child-driven play that children need to grow." He believes parents should (16) \_\_\_\_\_ more time with children and teach them politeness.

*rude*  
*spend*  
*forget*  
*director*  
*answer*  
*face-to-face*  
*simply*  
*questions*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

- 1) Technology is now helping to teach children \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to be politely
  - b. to be politeness
  - c. to be polite
  - d. to be poll light
- 2) The smart software is programmed to encourage children \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to speak "please"
  - b. to say "please"
  - c. to shout "please"
  - d. to talk "please"
- 3) An example of this is if a child asks FreeTime: "What is the \_\_\_\_\_ Australia?"
  - a. capitol city of
  - b. cap-it-all city of
  - c. capital city of
  - d. capitalist city of
- 4) Alexa will answer and end its response with: "Thank you for \_\_\_\_\_."
  - a. asking so nice
  - b. asking so nicety
  - c. asking so nicely
  - d. asking so nicer
- 5) Amazon hopes this will encourage children to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. cope the device
  - b. copier the device
  - c. copy the device
  - d. copied the device
- 6) Parents said children copy this way of speaking and forget \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to say "pleased"
  - b. to say "please"
  - c. to say "pleases"
  - d. to say "pleasure"
- 7) Children also got used to asking smart devices questions without \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. been polite
  - b. be in polite
  - c. being in polite
  - d. being polite
- 8) Not everyone is happy with this \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. news technology
  - b. new technology
  - c. newt technology
  - d. knew technology
- 9) AI devices...interfere with the face-to-face interactions and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. child-driven play
  - b. child-ridden play
  - c. child-piloted play
  - d. child-flown play
- 10) He believes parents should spend more time with children and teach \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. these politeness
  - b. then politeness
  - c. there politeness
  - d. them politeness

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

Technology is now helping to teach children (1) \_\_\_\_\_.  
Amazon will soon start selling a children's (2) \_\_\_\_\_ virtual assistant Alexa. The new digital assistant will be called "FreeTime". The child-friendly device (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Amazon calls a "Magic Word" feature. Of course, there are two magic words: "Please," and: "Thank you." The smart software is programmed (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to say "please" and "thank you" when they ask the device questions. An example of this is if a child asks FreeTime: "What is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of Australia?" Alexa will answer and end its response with: "Thank you for asking so nicely." Amazon hopes (6) \_\_\_\_\_ children to copy the device and be more polite.

Amazon says the new Magic Word (7) \_\_\_\_\_ answer the many customers who said technology was teaching children to be rude. Many smart (8) \_\_\_\_\_ out sentences without using any polite words. Parents said children (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of speaking and forget to say "please" or "thank you". Children also got used to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ questions without being polite. Not everyone is happy with this new technology. Josh Golin, executive director of Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, said: "AI devices... (11) \_\_\_\_\_ face-to-face interactions and child-driven play that children need to grow." He believes parents should (12) \_\_\_\_\_ with children and teach them politeness.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

1. What is technology trying to teach children to do?
2. What is the new digital assistant called?
3. What is the feature of the software called?
4. What country might the device ask what the capital is?
5. What is the adverb the software will use in its responses to children?
6. What did many customers think the device was teaching children to be?
7. What do many smart devices not use when talking to children?
8. What is the job of Josh Golin?
9. What kind of interactions did Josh Golin think technology interferes with?
10. Who did Josh Golin say should spend more time with children?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

- 1) What is technology trying to teach children to do?
  - a) code
  - b) be polite
  - c) use computers
  - d) speak another language
- 2) What is the new digital assistant called?
  - a) Thanks Time
  - b) Polite Time
  - c) Speak Time
  - d) FreeTime
- 3) What is the feature of the software called?
  - a) Magic Word
  - b) Thank Please
  - c) Please Time
  - d) Thank Magic
- 4) What country might the device ask what the capital is?
  - a) Albania
  - b) Argentina
  - c) Australia
  - d) Austria
- 5) What is the adverb the software will use in its responses to children?
  - a) loudly
  - b) nicely
  - c) softly
  - d) quietly
- 6) What did many customers think the device was teaching children to be?
  - a) rude
  - b) clever
  - c) smart
  - d) annoying
- 7) What do many smart devices not use when talking to children?
  - a) volume
  - b) slang
  - c) polite words
  - d) spelling
- 8) What is the job of Josh Golin?
  - a) executive director
  - b) chief coder
  - c) spelling expert
  - d) English teacher
- 9) What kind of interactions did Josh Golin think technology interferes with?
  - a) face-to-face interactions
  - b) financial interactions
  - c) e-mail interactions
  - d) social interactions
- 10) Who did Josh Golin say should spend more time with children?
  - a) technologists
  - b) coders
  - c) teachers
  - d) parents

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

## **Role A – Spitting**

You think spitting is the rudest thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so rude. Also, tell the others which is the least rude of these (and why): using bad language, putting your shoes on seats or not saying 'thank you'.

## **Role B – Using Bad Language**

You think using bad language is the rudest thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so rude. Also, tell the others which is the least rude of these (and why): spitting, putting your shoes on seats or not saying 'thank you'.

## **Role C – Shoes on Seats**

You think putting your shoes on seats is the rudest thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so rude. Also, tell the others which is the least rude of these (and why): using bad language, spitting or not saying 'thank you'.

## **Role D –Not Saying 'Thank You'**

You think not saying 'thank you' is the rudest thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so rude. Also, tell the others which is the least rude of these (and why): using bad language, putting your shoes on seats or spitting.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'please' and 'thank'.

please	thank

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• helping</li><li>• include</li><li>• course</li><li>• software</li><li>• capital</li><li>• copy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• feature</li><li>• simply</li><li>• used</li><li>• happy</li><li>• face</li><li>• spend</li></ul>
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# SAYING PLEASE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

Write five GOOD questions about saying please in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# SAYING PLEASE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'please'?
3. How important is politeness?
4. Who should teach us about politeness?
5. What do you think of virtual assistants like Alexa?
6. How important are the words "please" and "thank you"?
7. Are some cultures more polite than others?
8. Do you always say "please" and "thank you"?
9. How important is face-to-face interaction?
10. Who is the rudest person you've ever met?

*Amazon Alexa to reward kids who say 'Please' – 28th April, 2018*  
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# SAYING PLEASE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'thank you'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How polite are you?
15. Should technology teach children to be polite?
16. Why are people rude?
17. What do you find rude about tourists visiting your country?
18. Do you ever say things to rude people?
19. What do you think of a virtual assistant teaching children manners?
20. What questions would you like to ask Amazon's boss?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

Technology is now helping to teach children to be (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Amazon will soon start selling a children's version of its (2) \_\_\_\_\_ assistant Alexa. The new digital assistant will be called "FreeTime". The child-friendly device will include (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Amazon calls a "Magic Word" feature. Of course, there are two magic words: "Please," and: "Thank you." The (4) \_\_\_\_\_ software is programmed to encourage children to say "please" and "thank you" when they ask the device questions. An example of this is if a child asks FreeTime: "What is the capital (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of Australia?" Alexa will answer and end its response with: "Thank you for asking so nicely." Amazon hopes this will encourage children to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the device and be more polite.

Amazon says the new Magic Word feature is to answer the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ customers who said technology was teaching children to be (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Many smart devices simply give out sentences without using any polite words. Parents said children copy this way of speaking and forget to say "please" or "thank you". Children also got (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to asking smart devices questions without being polite. Not everyone is happy (10) \_\_\_\_\_ this new technology. Josh Golin, executive director of Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, said: "AI devices...interfere with the face-to-face interactions and child-(11) \_\_\_\_\_ play that children need to grow." He believes parents should spend more time with children and teach (12) \_\_\_\_\_ politeness.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |            |                |              |               |
|-----|------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) polite | (b) politeness | (c) politely | (d) politer   |
| 2.  | (a) virtue | (b) virtuoso   | (c) virtual  | (d) virtually |
| 3.  | (a) that   | (b) what       | (c) while    | (d) how       |
| 4.  | (a) part   | (b) start      | (c) mart     | (d) smart     |
| 5.  | (a) city   | (b) village    | (c) region   | (d) town      |
| 6.  | (a) cope   | (b) copy       | (c) cop      | (d) cops      |
| 7.  | (a) must   | (b) much       | (c) more     | (d) many      |
| 8.  | (a) dude   | (b) rude       | (c) nude     | (d) cued      |
| 9.  | (a) uses   | (b) use        | (c) used     | (d) using     |
| 10. | (a) whilst | (b) while      | (c) what     | (d) with      |
| 11. | (a) sudden | (b) trodden    | (c) ridden   | (d) driven    |
| 12. | (a) these  | (b) them       | (c) those    | (d) this      |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. teach children to be oetipl
2. start selling a children's orvsien
3. The new digital taitssnsa
4. eceuaring children to say "please"
5. An eplmexa of this
6. answer the many etumorcss

## Paragraph 2

7. the new Magic Word eurafet
8. simply give out snceetsen
9. reotgf to say "please"
10. executive drtrecoi
11. AI devices fetirene
12. face-to-face intanctrsoei

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) questions. An example of this is if a child asks FreeTime: "What is the capital city of
- ( ) grow." He believes parents should spend more time with children and teach them politeness.
- ( ) with the face-to-face interactions and child-driven play that children need to
- ( ) director of Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, said: "AI devices...interfere
- ( ) Amazon says the new Magic Word feature is to answer the many customers who said technology was teaching
- ( ) children to be rude. Many smart devices simply give out sentences without using any polite
- ( ) and: "Thank you." The smart software is programmed to encourage children to say "please" and "thank you" when they ask the device
- ( ) Australia?" Alexa will answer and end its response with: "Thank you for asking so
- ( **1** ) Technology is now helping to teach children to be polite. Amazon will soon start selling a children's
- ( ) include what Amazon calls a "Magic Word" feature. Of course, there are two magic words: "Please,"
- ( ) nicely." Amazon hopes this will encourage children to copy the device and be more polite.
- ( ) used to asking smart devices questions without being polite. Not everyone is happy with this new technology. Josh Golin, executive
- ( ) version of its virtual assistant Alexa. The new digital assistant will be called "FreeTime". The child-friendly device will
- ( ) words. Parents said children copy this way of speaking and forget to say "please" or "thank you". Children also got

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

1. children now be helping is to polite . Technology
2. a virtual version of children's assistant . Selling its
3. magic course, two are there words . Of
4. capital is the Australia? city What of
5. children copy device . This to the encourage will
6. teaching to be children Technology rude . was
7. smart devices out Many give sentences . simply
8. this with happy new Not technology . is everyone
9. AI face-to-face interactions . interfere devices with
10. with more Parents time spend children . should

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

Technology is *now / known* helping to teach children to be polite. Amazon will *sooner / soon* start selling a children's version of its *virtually / virtual* assistant Alexa. The new digital *assistance / assistant* will be called "FreeTime". The child-friendly device will include *what / that* Amazon calls a "Magic Word" feature. Of course, there are two magic words: "Please," and: "Thank you." The *smarmy / smart* software is programmed to encourage children to say "please" and "thank you" when they ask the *crevice / device* questions. An example of this is if a child asks FreeTime: "What is the capital *city / town* of Australia?" Alexa will answer and end its *respire / response* with: "Thank you for asking so nicely." Amazon hopes this will encourage children to *copy / cope* the device and be more polite.

Amazon says the new Magic Word feature is to *question / answer* the many customers who said technology was teaching children to be *crude / rude*. Many smart devices simply give *in / out* sentences without using any polite *words / wordy*. Parents said children copy this way of *speak / speaking* and forget to say "please" or "thank you". Children also got used to asking smart devices questions without *been / being* polite. Not everyone is happy with this new *technology / technological*. Josh Golin, executive director of Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, said: "AI devices...interfere with the face-to-face interactions and *child-ridden / child-driven* play that children need to grow." He *believes / beliefs* parents should spend more time with children and teach these / them politeness.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

T\_c h n\_l\_g y \_s n\_w h\_l p\_n g t\_ t\_\_ c h c h\_l d r\_n  
t\_ b\_ p\_l\_t\_. A m\_z\_n w\_l l s\_\_ n s\_t r\_t s\_l l\_n g  
\_ c h\_l d r\_n 's v\_r s\_\_ n \_f \_t s v\_r t\_\_ l \_s s\_s t\_n t  
A l\_x\_. T h\_ n\_w d\_g\_t\_l \_s s\_s t\_n t w\_l l b\_ c\_l  
l\_d " F r\_\_ T\_m\_". T h\_ c h\_l d - f r\_\_ n d l y d\_v\_c\_  
w\_l l \_n c\_l d\_ w h\_t A m\_z\_n c\_l l s \_ " M\_g\_c W\_r d  
" f\_\_ t\_r\_. O f c\_\_ r\_s\_, t h\_r\_\_ r\_ t w\_ m\_g\_c w\_r  
d s: " P l\_\_ s\_, " \_n d: " T h\_n k y\_\_ ." T h\_ s m\_r  
t s\_f t w\_r\_ \_s p\_r g\_r m\_m\_d t\_ \_n c\_\_ r\_g\_ c h\_l d  
r\_n t\_ s\_y " p l\_\_ s\_" \_n d " t h\_n k y\_\_ " w h\_n t  
h\_y \_s k t h\_ d\_v\_c\_ q\_\_ s t\_\_ n s. A n \_x\_m p\_l\_ \_f  
t h\_s \_s \_f \_ c h\_l d \_s k s F r\_\_ T\_m\_: " W h\_t \_s  
t h\_ c\_p\_t\_l c\_t y \_f A\_s t\_r\_l\_\_ ?" A l\_x\_ w\_l l \_n s  
w\_r \_n d \_n d \_t s r\_s p\_n s\_ w\_t h: " T h\_n k y\_\_  
f\_r \_s k\_n g s\_ n\_c\_l y." A m\_z\_n h\_p\_s t h\_s w\_l  
l \_n c\_\_ r\_g\_ c h\_l d r\_n t\_ c\_p y t h\_ d\_v\_c\_ \_n d  
b\_ m\_r\_ p\_l\_t\_.

A m\_z\_n s\_y s t h\_ n\_w M\_g\_c W\_r d f\_\_ t\_r\_ \_s t\_  
\_n s w\_r t h\_ m\_n y c\_s t\_m\_r\_s w h\_ s\_\_ d t\_c h  
n\_l\_g y w\_s t\_\_ c h\_n g c h\_l d r\_n t\_ b\_ r\_d\_. M\_n  
y s m\_r t d\_v\_c\_s s\_m p\_l y g\_v\_ \_\_ t s\_n t\_n c\_s  
w\_t h\_\_ t \_s\_n g \_n y p\_l\_t\_ w\_r d s. P\_r\_n t s s\_\_ d  
c h\_l d r\_n c\_p y t h\_s w\_y \_f s p\_\_ k\_n g \_n d f\_r  
g\_t t\_ s\_y " p l\_\_ s\_" \_r " t h\_n k y\_\_ ". C h\_l d  
r\_n \_l s\_ g\_t \_s\_d t\_ \_s k\_n g s m\_r t d\_v\_c\_s q\_\_ s  
t\_\_ n s w\_t h\_\_ t b\_\_ n g p\_l\_t\_. N\_t \_v\_r y\_n \_s  
h\_p p y w\_t h t h\_s n\_w t\_c h n\_l\_g y. J\_s h G\_l\_n  
, \_x\_c\_t\_v\_ d\_r\_c\_t\_r \_f C\_m p\_\_ g\_n f\_r \_ C\_m m\_r  
c\_\_ l - F r\_\_ C h\_l d h\_\_ d, s\_\_ d: " A I d\_v\_c\_s . .  
. \_n t\_r f\_r\_ w\_t h t h\_ f\_c\_ - t\_ - f\_c\_ \_n t\_r\_c t\_\_ n s \_n  
d c h\_l d - d r\_v\_n p\_l y t h\_t c h\_l d r\_n n\_\_ d t\_  
g\_r\_w." H\_ b\_l\_\_ v\_s p\_r\_n t s s h\_\_ l d s p\_n d  
m\_r\_ t\_m\_ w\_t h c h\_l d r\_n \_n d t\_\_ c h t h\_m  
p\_l\_t\_n\_s s .

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

technology is now helping to teach children to be polite amazon will soon start selling a childrens version of its virtual assistant alexa the new digital assistant will be called freetime the childfriendly device will include what amazon calls a magic word feature of course there are two magic words please and thank you the smart software is programmed to encourage children to say please and thank you when they ask the device questions an example of this is if a child asks freetime what is the capital city of australia alexa will answer and end its response with thank you for asking so nicely amazon hopes this will encourage children to copy the device and be more polite

amazon says the new magic word feature is to answer the many customers who said technology was teaching children to be rude many smart devices simply give out sentences without using any polite words parents said children copy this way of speaking and forget to say please or thank you children also got used to asking smart devices questions without being polite not everyone is happy with this new technology josh golin executive director of campaign for a commercialfree childhood said ai devicesinterfere with the facetoface interactions and childdriven play that children need to grow he believes parents should spend more time with children and teach them politeness.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please.html>

Technology is now helping to teach children to be polite. Amazon will soon start selling a children's version of its virtual assistant Alexa. The new digital assistant will be called "FreeTime". The child-friendly device will include what Amazon calls a "Magic Word" feature. Of course, there are two magic words: "Please," and "Thank you." The smart software is programmed to encourage children to say "please" and "thank you" when they ask the device questions. An example of this is if a child asks FreeTime: "What is the capital city of Australia?" Alexa will answer and end its response with: "Thank you for asking so nicely." Amazon hopes this will encourage children to copy the device and be more polite. Amazon says the new Magic Word feature is to answer the many customers who said technology was teaching children to be rude. Many smart devices simply give out sentences without using any polite words. Parents said children copy this way of speaking and forget to say "please" or "thank you". Children also got used to asking smart devices questions without being polite. Not everyone is happy with this new technology. Josh Golin, executive director of Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, said: "AI devices... interfere with the face-to-face interactions and child-driven play that children need to grow." He believes parents should spend more time with children and teach them politeness.







# HOMWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. SAYING PLEASE:** Make a poster about saying please. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. TECHNOLOGY:** Write a magazine article about technology playing a bigger role in helping children to be polite. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on saying please. Ask him/her three questions about being polite. Give him/her three of your ideas on how we can teach children to be more polite. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c    2. d    3. a    4. e    5. f    6. b    7. g  
8. i    9. l    10. n    11. j    12. h    13. k    14. m

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F    b T    c F    d T    e T    f T    g F    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. polite       | a. well-mannered  |
| 2. assistant    | b. helper         |
| 3. of course    | c. naturally      |
| 4. example      | d. illustration   |
| 5. copy         | e. mimic          |
| 6. rude         | f. impolite       |
| 7. happy        | g. pleased        |
| 8. interfere    | h. get in the way |
| 9. face-to-face | i. direct         |
| 10. believes    | j. thinks         |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Be polite
2. FreeTime
3. Magic Word
4. Australia
5. Nicely
6. Rude
7. Polite words
8. Executive Director
9. Face-to-face interactions
10. Parents

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. Technology is now helping children to be polite.
2. Selling a children's version of its virtual assistant.
3. Of course, there are two magic words.
4. What is the capital city of Australia?
5. This will encourage children to copy the device.
6. Technology was teaching children to be rude.
7. Many smart devices simply give out sentences.
8. Not everyone is happy with this new technology.
9. AI devices interfere with face-to-face interactions.
10. Parents should spend more time with children.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b    2. d    3. a    4. c    5. b    6. a    7. c    8. a    9. a    10. d

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)