

a) How to ask permission to do something

When you ask someone for permission to do something, here are some phrases you can use:

May... Can... Could...	I	...(go home early tonight)?
Do you think... I wonder if...	I could	
Is it all right if I... Would it be all right if I...		
Do you mind if I		...(smoke)?

b) How to grant permission

Yes,	certainly. of course. of course you (may/can/could). all right. that's (quite) all right (by me). by all means please do. go ahead.
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No,	of course not. not at all.
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c) How to refuse permission politely

No, I'm afraid not.
I'm sorry, but you can't.
Well, I'd rather you didn't, if you don't mind.
Actually I'd rather you didn't.

Yes, I'm afraid I do.
I'm sorry, but I do.
Well, I'd rather you didn't, if you don't mind.