

Requests

request = the act of politely or officially asking for something

May Can Could	I	borrow your book?
Will Won't Would Can Could	you	lend your book to me?

lend ≠ borrow

lend = to give something to someone for a short period of time, expecting it to be given back

borrow = to get or receive something from someone with the intention of giving it back after a period of time

Point:

In requests, after "may", we use "I".

In requests, after "will", "won't" or "would", we use "you".

In requests, after "can" or "could", we can use either "I" or "you".

Don't Say: May you help me?

Say: Will/Won't/Would/Can/Could you help me?

Point:

You can use "please" in requests with "will you", "would you", "could you" to be politer.

Example:

Will you please pass me the sugar?

Would you please pass me the sugar?

Could you please pass me the sugar?

Will you pass me the sugar, please?

Would you pass me the sugar, please?

Could you pass me the sugar, please?

Would like = want

would like something => *I would like a glass of water.*

would like to do something => *I would like to drink a glass of water.*

would like somebody to do something => *I would like you to bring me a glass of water.*

Point:

"Would like" is much politer than "want".

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