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Test Your Vocabulary Skills

Polite or Impolite Sentences – Matching Activity

Print and cut out the cards, then mix them up. Students have to find the 12 matching pairs shown below, which each contain one polite sentence and one impolite sentence. Students should then identify which sentence is polite and which is impolite in each matching pair, and discuss why (e.g. using the imperative form – “**Give me** your money” – can be impolite):

<i>polite</i>	Can I help you, madam?
<i>impolite</i>	What do you want?
<i>polite</i>	Would you be able to type in your pin number, please?
<i>impolite</i>	Type in your PIN number.
<i>polite</i>	Can I have a non-smoking seat?
<i>impolite</i>	I want a non-smoking seat.
<i>polite</i>	Is it possible for me to take my bike on the train with me?
<i>impolite</i>	I'm going to take my bike.
<i>polite</i>	Could you remove your card, sir?
<i>impolite</i>	Take out your card.
<i>polite</i>	Would you like to pay by cash or debit card?
<i>impolite</i>	Give me your money.
<i>polite</i>	Have you got any timetables for Derby to London trains?
<i>impolite</i>	Give me a timetable for Derby to London trains.
<i>polite</i>	I would like a return ticket to Nottingham, please.
<i>impolite</i>	I want a return ticket to Nottingham.
<i>polite</i>	Excuse me – where are the toilets?
<i>impolite</i>	Where are the toilets?
<i>polite</i>	Is that everything?
<i>impolite</i>	Is that it?
<i>polite</i>	Sorry, would you mind repeating that, please?
<i>impolite</i>	What?
<i>polite</i>	Please take a seat.
<i>impolite</i>	Sit down over there.