

- 2a Where do you need to make polite requests? Think of some possible situations. Discuss them with your partner.
- 2b Read the article and underline the topic sentence for each paragraph.

USING SUITABLE LANGUAGE

In different situations, you need to choose and use suitable language based on cultural knowledge.

Could You Please ...?

When you visit a foreign country, it is important to know how to ask for help politely. For example, you may ask "Where are the restrooms?" or "Could you please tell me where the restrooms are?" These are similar requests for directions. Both are correct, but the first one sounds less polite. That is because it is a very direct question. It is not enough to just ask a question correctly. We also need to learn how to be polite when we ask for help.

Good speakers change the way they speak in different situations. The expressions they use might depend on whom they are speaking to or how well they know each other. It is all right to ask your classmates direct questions because you know them well. However, if you say to your teacher, "When is the school trip?", this might sound impolite. But if you say, "Excuse me, Mr. West. Do you know when the school trip is?", this will sound much more polite.

Usually polite questions are longer. They include expressions such as "Could you please ...?" or "May I ask ...?" It sounds more polite to say, "Peter, could you please tell me your e-mail address?" than "Peter, tell me your e-mail address." Sometimes we even need to spend time leading into a request. For example, we might first say to a stranger, "Excuse me, I wonder if you can help me" or "I'm sorry to trouble you, but ..." before asking for help.

It might seem more difficult to speak politely than directly. However, it is important to learn how to use the right language in different situations. This will help you communicate better with other people.



2c Find the direct questions and polite requests from the passage.

Direct questions	Polite requests
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

2d Read the requests below. In the second column, write A if you would say it to someone you know and B if you would say it to a stranger. In the last column, write where you think these people are.

Request	Person	Place
1. Will you pass the salt?		
2. Do you know where I can change some money, please?		
3. Could you tell me what just happened?		
4. Can you please tell me where the nearest station is?		
5. Excuse me, do you know what time it begins, please?		
6. Let me know when you're ready, OK?		
7. Could you possibly tell me the way to the village school?		

3a Imagine you are going on a short study vacation at a school in an English-speaking country. What would you like to know before you go? Write some polite, indirect questions about the following topics.

Topic	Question
The course you will study	
The time of the course	
Where and what you can eat	
Where you will stay	
What activities you can do	
Travel to the school	
Other	

2a What do you know about folk or traditional art, like paper cutting? Tell your partner about it.

2b Read the passage and complete the chart below.

MOVING FROM GENERAL TO SPECIFIC

A general introduction of the topic is usually followed by specific details and examples.

Beauty in Common Things

Each different part of China has its own special forms of traditional art.

These usually try to show the things that are important in life, such as love, beauty and family. The most common things, from paper to clay to bamboo, are turned into objects of beauty.



According to Chinese history, sky lanterns were first used by Zhuge Kongming. He sent them out to ask for help when in trouble. Today, sky lanterns are used at festivals and other celebrations. They are made of bamboo and covered with paper. When the lanterns are lit, they slowly rise into the air like small hot-air balloons for all to see. They are seen as bright symbols of happiness and good wishes.

Paper cutting has been around for over 1,500 years. Paper cutting sounds very easy but it can be difficult to do. The paper, usually red, is folded before it is cut with scissors. The most common pictures are flowers, animals, and things about Chinese history. During the Spring Festival, they are put on windows, doors and walls as symbols of wishes for good luck and a happy new year.



Chinese clay art is famous because the clay pieces are so small but they look very real. The pieces are usually of children or lively characters from a Chinese fairy tale or historical story. The pieces are carefully shaped by hand from a very special kind of clay and then allowed to air-dry. After drying, they are fired at a very high heat. They are then polished and painted. It takes several weeks to complete everything. These small pieces of clay art show the love that all Chinese people have for life and beauty.

Traditional art form	Materials used
1.	
2.	
3.	

2c Read the passage again and answer the questions.

1. What do traditional Chinese art forms try to show?
2. What were sky lanterns used for before and what are they used for now?
3. What kinds of pictures are usually found on paper cuttings?
4. How do people use paper cuttings during the Spring Festival?
5. What are the steps for making clay art pieces?
6. Which art form do you think is the most interesting? Why?

2d Complete the sentences using the correct forms of the phrases in the box.

such as turn ... into send out cover with rise into put ... on

1. People used to _____ sky lanterns when they were in trouble. But today, people light the lanterns and watch them _____ the sky with their wishes.
2. The art of paper cutting _____ a simple thing like a piece of paper _____ a beautiful piece of art. People often _____ these art pieces _____ the doors, windows and walls of their homes to celebrate the Spring Festival.
3. To make Chinese clay art, the clay is shaped by hand into things _____ cute children or characters from Chinese fairy tales and stories. They are then _____ paint.

2e Discuss the questions in your group.

1. Which art form do you think is the easiest? Which is the most difficult? Why?
2. Which art form would you like to learn? Why?

3a What are some special things that your town/city is famous for? These can be food, artwork or any other products. Discuss them with a partner and take notes.

What the product is	
What it is made of/from	
Who it is made by	
Where it is made	
What it can do	
Why it is special	

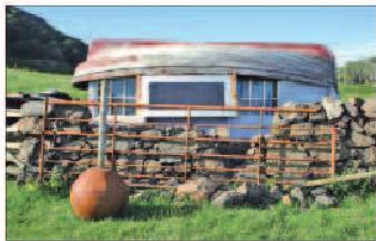
- 2a Look at the title and the pictures in 2b. Can you guess what the passage is about?
- 2b Read the passage and complete the chart below.

Rethink, Reuse, Recycle!

Do you often throw away things you don't need anymore? Have you ever thought about how these things can actually be put to good use? Nothing is a waste if you have a creative mind.

UNDERSTANDING PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

Recognize how prefixes and suffixes may change the meanings of words and how they are used.



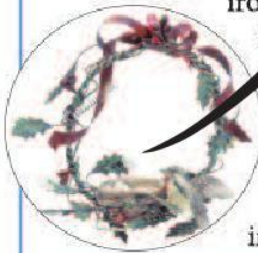
You have probably never heard of Amy Hayes, but she is a most unusual woman. She lives in a house in the UK that she built herself out of rubbish. The windows and doors come from old buildings around her town that were pulled down. The top of the house is an old boat turned upside down. And the gate in front of her house is made of rocks and old glass bottles. Amy recently won a

prize from the Help Save Our Planet Society. The president said, "Amy is an inspiration to us all."

Amy isn't the only one who is good at recycling. Jessica Wong from Hong Kong uses old clothes that people don't wear anymore to make bags. She has been doing this for a few years now. She opened a small shop where she sells her bags, and she has also set up a website to sell them online. She especially likes to use old jeans to make handbags. Her bags are cute and useful. "I plan to write a book about new ways to use old clothes," she said. "I hope people can read my book and enjoy it!"



Wang Tao set up a small business in Shanghai four years ago. He is known for using iron and other materials from old cars to make beautiful art pieces. Some are large pieces that look like animals or humans, and some are smaller pieces you can put at home. The more popular works can even be seen in art shops around the city. Wang Tao hopes to set up a "metal art" theme park to show people the importance of environmental protection. Not only can the art bring happiness to others, but it also shows that even cold, hard iron can be brought back to life with a little creativity.



Names	What materials did they use?	What did they make?

2c Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the phrases in the box.

put to good use	build ... out of	pull down
set up	known for	not only ... but also

1. Amy Hayes lives in the UK. Many of the old buildings in her neighborhood were _____.
2. All the rubbish and old things in Amy's neighborhood were then _____ when Amy built her house.
3. Amy is very creative. She _____ her front gate _____ rocks and old glass bottles. She put an old boat on top of her house.
4. Jessica Wong sells her bags in a small shop, but she has also _____ an online business to sell them.
5. Though Jessica's bags are made from old clothes, her bags are _____ being cute and useful.
6. Wang Tao _____ makes large pieces of metal art that look like animals or humans, _____ makes smaller pieces for the home.

2d Underline the words in the passage based on the words below. What are the differences?

think	use	usual	recycle	build	create
special	recent	environment	important	protect	inspire

2e Make a list of things that need to be done to save the environment. Which things can be done by common people every day? Which things have to be done by government and organizations? Discuss these with your group.

3a Think about the environment in your town/city and complete the chart below.

Which parts of the town/city have a nice environment? Why are they nice?
Which parts need to be improved? Why?

Good environment	Why?	Bad environment	Why?