

USING ADDRESS

You already learned in a previous book that **address** used as a *noun* describes the location of a certain place so that people can find it or mail can be sent there.

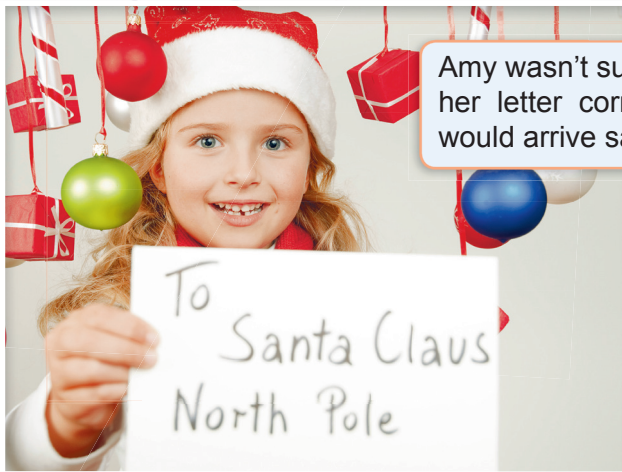
But used as a *verb*, **address** has several other meanings. Let's take a look.

To **address** an envelope means to write the name and address of a person or business on it. Check out these examples.

He's **addressing** the envelope to his aunt.



Amy wasn't sure if she had **addressed** her letter correctly, but she hoped it would arrive safely.



As you learned in a previous book, to **address** a person or a group means to speak to that person or group, as in the example below.

Professor Fitchens: Could you get me some more water here, please?
(**addressing** the moderator)



And to **address** an important issue is to deal with it or treat it, as in these examples from the lesson.

“Satire puts a spotlight on controversial issues by **addressing** major social, political, or religious themes.”

“Both works (Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World* and George Orwell’s *1984*) **address** social evil through scorn and outrage, and they’re not funny at all.”

Remember that the *noun* **address** is stressed on the *first* syllable (A-ddress), and the *verb* **address** is stressed on the *second* syllable (a-DDRESS).

USING VET

In this lesson you learned that the noun **vet** is short for veterinarian, a person trained to give medical care and treatment to sick animals. Let's learn about some more ways to use **vet**.

Besides veterinarian, **vet** is also short for veteran. A veteran is a person who has a lot of experience doing a certain activity, and the word veteran (**vet**) is often used to refer to someone who was in military service during a war. Here are some examples.

American jazz **vet** Dave Brubeck was one of jazz's first pop stars.

I saw many proud **vets** marching during the Veterans Day commemorations on November 11.



We can also use **vet** as a verb. Originally, **to vet** was used in horse-racing to refer to the practice of a **vet** (veterinarian) checking a horse to verify it is healthy enough to race.



Today, **to vet** has a general meaning of to examine or evaluate a person or thing to check if he, she, or it is appropriate or acceptable. It is often used in reference to the process of **vetting** political candidates. (You can hear this usage in many popular TV series about politics, such as *House of Cards*, *24*, and *West Wing*.) Here are some examples with **vet**.

In the U.S., political parties carefully **vet** each candidate in terms of experience, character, and reputation.

Schools must thoroughly **vet** job applicants before they can be hired to work with children.

INFORMAL FORMS OF POLITE REQUESTS

You already know that we can use **would you mind** and **would you mind if** in polite requests, as in these examples from previous books.

“Would you mind putting your seat in the upright position, please?”

“No, not at all.”

“Would you mind if I called you Mrs. B. instead of Mrs. Beauregard?”

“That would be fine, Tommy.”

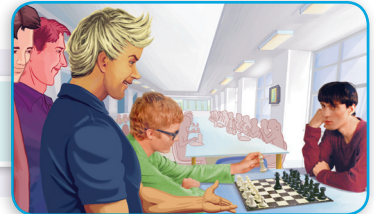
The polite requests shown in the examples above are usually considered formal forms of polite requests. Now take a look at these examples from the lesson.

“Hi! **Do you guys mind if** I sit here?”



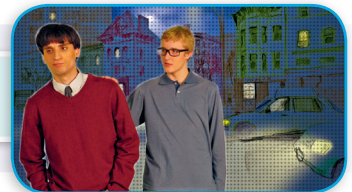
In the example above, Cindy says **Do you guys mind if I sit here?** instead of **Would you guys mind if I sat here?**

“Mind if we stand here and cheer?”



And in this example, Brett says **Mind if we stand here and cheer?** instead of **Would you mind if we stood here and cheered?** (Note that Brett could also have said **Do you mind if we stand here and cheer?**)

“Hey buddy, **mind if** I join you?”

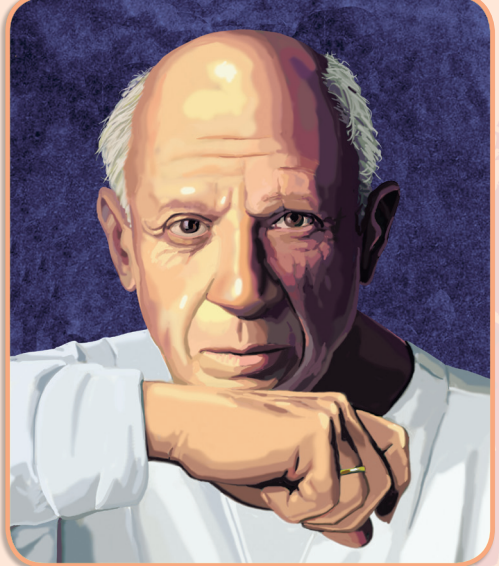


Finally, in this example, Ernie says **Mind if I join you?** instead of **Would you mind if I joined you?** (Note that Ernie could also have said **Do you mind if I join you?**)

These forms of polite requests are more informal and are usually used in spoken English. Depending on the situation you are in, you can decide whether a formal or informal form of a polite request would be more appropriate.

WHAT IT MEANS TO MASTER A LANGUAGE

When artists start learning their craft, they first invest time and effort to learn the basics, such as how to use different brushes to create different effects, how to apply the paint on the canvas, and how to mix colors to create the exact tones they want. Later, they begin to learn more advanced methods and sophisticated techniques. And finally, they should feel confident enough to begin exploring the limitless possibilities of this art. As Pablo Picasso said: “Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist.”



In your quest to achieve mastery of the English language, you have followed a similar path. First you invested the time and effort to learn the basic rules of such things as grammar, pronunciation, and spelling. From that stage, your command of English has gradually become more advanced and sophisticated. You can now begin to explore the limitless possibilities of the English language. After all, as you have mastered the rules, you can now feel confident enough to break them. This idea may seem shocking to you at first, but English is one of the most dynamic, vibrant, and flexible modern languages in the world. In film, music, literature, and every medium of communication, English words, phrases, and expressions are constantly being adapted, modified and played with by people everywhere, and so can you.

You know which situations call for formal English, and which situations allow for informal English and for “breaking the rules.” You know when it’s necessary to ask, *Do you understand?* or when it’s OK to simply ask, *Got it?*

You are a part of the global community that has mastered English and claims it as its own. So what ideas are you going to share with the world?