



Business hospitality politeness review

How could you make these sentences longer to make them more polite?

1. I'd love to, but I can't.
2. No thanks, I'm full.
3. That was nice, thanks.
4. I'll let you decide.
5. Can I order this instead?
6. We usually share dishes.
7. Just something light for me.
8. Thanks for inviting me.
9. I can't eat meat.
10. There's no English menu. Sorry.
11. Ready to order?
12. We'd better order.
13. I'll pay.
14. No, really, I'll pay.

Compete to make the sentences above as long as possible and then discuss what you think the right length probably is in your real business life.

Look at the lengthened versions on the next page and shorten any which you think are too long.

1. I'd love to, but I can't. - **It's such a shame. I really would have loved to have gone as it sounds like just my kind of thing, but I have a meeting on Friday night in Tsukuba and it probably won't finish until late, so by the time I get back to Tokyo you'll probably have all gone home.**
2. No thanks, I'm full.- **That's very kind, but I really couldn't eat another thing. I'm fit to burst. I don't think I've eaten this much since Xmas.**
3. That was nice, thanks. - **What an absolutely amazing place that was! The food was incredibly delicious and I really liked the atmosphere too. Thanks so much for bringing me here, I really am ever so grateful. I'll be sure to bring my colleagues here next time we are in Tokyo, and you must let me take you out in London some time soon.**
4. I'll let you decide. - **It all sounds/ looks so nice. I really can't decide and I don't know much about (this kind of) Japanese food, so I'll be very happy to try whatever you order.**
5. Can I order this instead? - **I'm not really fond of shellfish./ We don't eat shellfish much in my country. If you don't mind, I'd prefer...**
6. We usually share dishes. - **We usually share dishes in Japan because we can try more things and we think of it as more sociable. Is that okay with you?**
7. Just something light for me. - **I had a big lunch and my wife has forced me to go on a diet, so just something fairly light like a salad or rice dish will be fine for me.**
8. Thanks for inviting me. - **Thank you so very much for your kind hospitality. You must let me do the same for you some time very soon.**
9. I can't eat meat. - **Is there anything on the menu for vegetarians, do you know?**

10. There's no English menu. Sorry. - **I'm afraid there's no English menu, but the Japanese one has pictures and I'll try my very best to explain anything that you don't know so we should be okay, I reckon. Just let me know if you need any help with anything.**

11. Ready to order? - **Does everyone know what they're having, or do you need more time?**

12. We'd better order. - **Shall we order whatever we've decided so far? We can always order more later if that isn't enough.**

13. I'll pay. - **I still owe you for that lovely night out in Munich last year, so this on me.**

14. No, really, I'll pay. - **No no no no, I absolutely insist. You can pay for drinks later if you like./ I'm sure you'll do the same for me some time.**