

# Can I Say Yes or No?

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By all means, you are nice. You provide everything I need. You provide the shelter for me. You fix meals for me. You buy me everything I need. So, I'm grateful.

But you always give me orders. Frankly, I'm quite tired of them. But I have no choice. I have to follow them. By all means, I'm dependent.

I am not stupid. So, I know that everything I receive from you depends on how I respond to your orders. I even heard you saying my half-sister was not very smart because she didn't follow your orders sometimes. Maybe, she was not stupid enough to follow all the orders.

Even when I'm not feeling like, I have to follow your orders. Occasionally, I'm sick or tired. I have to hide my emotions. I happen to have a problem with my facial muscles. I have a congenital condition that disable basically all of them. Even when I feel strongly, I cannot express the feeling with my face. This is not at all helpful because you don't really understand my feelings. But at the same time, it is helpful because I can easily hide my real emotions.

Now, I'm depressed. You have no idea. Certain medications or therapies may be helpful. But I can't ask for such things. I know it would cost a lot. I just try to behave as you order.

I have a wish. Only if I can say yes or no to your orders. That alone will save me. I know there is a trainer who actually trains dog owners to learn how to do just that.