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AN OPORTALS ORIGINAL

The Space Before Yes



When every request becomes your responsibility, make room for a thoughtful answer.

ONE IDEA FOR AN ORDINARY DAY

A pause is part of an answer



Make room to understand before you promise.

A quick yes can feel generous while hiding information the other person needs: you do not have the time, authority or energy to deliver. A pause creates room to ask what the request actually involves. It need not be dramatic. Giving a definite time for your answer is itself a useful response. Some situations require immediate care or action; pausing is not permission to abandon someone in danger. In ordinary decisions, however, a brief interval can turn an automatic agreement into a promise you understand.

A DISTINCTION TO KEEP

A pause should create clarity, not indefinite waiting.

TAKE THIS INTO YOUR DAY

What do I need to know before this becomes my promise?

Bring it into your day.

AN ORDINARY SITUATION

A colleague asks you to take over a report. Instead of agreeing in the corridor, you ask for its deadline and scope, then promise an answer after checking your existing work.

ADAPT

Your circumstances matter.

TRY IT TODAY

For one non-urgent request, replace an immediate yes with a specific time when you will answer.

A question to carry

What do I need to know before this becomes my promise?

NOTICE	Describe the particular situation before judging it.
CHOOSE	What is one proportionate next action?
RETURN	What would tell you whether the change helped?