Grammatical form and politeness

4. What observations can you make about the relationship of grammatical form and politeness from data such as the following?

a. Have you cleaned up your room yet?
b. When do you plan to clean up your room?
c. Don’t you think your room’s a mess?
d. Are you planning to do anything about your room?
e. Can you go upstairs and clean up your room?
f. Would you mind cleaning up your room?
g. Wouldn’t it be a good idea to clean up your room?
h. Go and clean up your room.
i. Your room needs to be cleaned up.
j. If you don’t clean up your room, you don’t go out.
k. Clean up your room and you can have some ice cream.
l. Upstairs, and clean up your room right now.
m. Kids who can’t keep their rooms clean don’t get ice cream.

Politeness and form:

the more direct, the less polite
the less polite, the more direct

Sentence types:
- Imperatives (commands)
- Questions
- Statements
- Conditionals

Other mitigating factors: Various factors can override the sentence types.
- intonation, for example, can override anything
- semantic indirectness: for example, hinting at something
- solidarity, that is, closeness reverses part of this
- explicit or implicit threats