

Giving Advice and Making Suggestions

Warm up:

- Do you ever have to make suggestions at your work?
- What is a movie you would recommend?
- What is a restaurant you would recommend?
- Who do you go to when you need advice and why?
- What is some very bad advice you have heard?
- If someone could only visit two cities in your country, which two cities would you suggest and why?



1. Look at the phrases and sort them into the correct category in the table below.

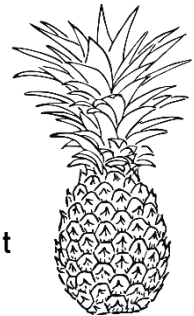
I don't think that's the best course of action.	Honestly I have no idea.
Why didn't I think of that?	I'm afraid I don't agree..
That might work actually.	It depends.
I have no clue	I wouldn't do that if I were you.
Are you insane??	That seems sensible.
Sounds good to me.	I'm on the fence about that.

That's a good idea	Not sure, 50/50	That's a bad idea
<i>Why didn't I think of that?</i>	<i>Honestly I have no idea.</i>	<i>I don't think that's the best course of action.</i>
<i>That might work actually.</i>	<i>It depends.</i>	<i>I'm afraid I don't agree..</i>
<i>That seems sensible.</i>	<i>I have no clue</i>	<i>I wouldn't do that if I were you.</i>
<i>Sounds good to me.</i>	<i>I'm on the fence about that.</i>	<i>Are you insane??</i>



2. Look at the advice below with a partner and use the language from exercise 1 to say what you think of the advice.

- a) "If you have a job interview and you really want to impress them, you should research some personal information about the interviewer, like where they live or what their pet's name is. Then tell them at the interview and they'll be very impressed."
- b) "If you're looking to rent an apartment, it's a good idea to make sure it's a place you can afford. If it costs more than one third of your income, you probably can't afford it."
- c) "So, the girl you have a crush on likes tattoos and unicorns? Why don't you get a tattoo of a unicorn on your face? You'll really stand out!"
- d) "If you're in a foreign country and your car breaks down in the middle of nowhere on a trip, your best bet is to call the police. They can help you or give you the number of a local mechanic."
- e) "I wouldn't wear black and blue together if I were you. They don't match, it just doesn't look good."
- f) "If you have pale skin and you're going in the sun, you'd better wear sunscreen and a hat so you don't get sunburnt."
- g) "Your plants look a little unhealthy to me, I'd suggest watering them with Coca-Cola. A little sugar and caffeine will really wake them up!"
- h) "Do you want the best pizza you've ever had in your life? My advice is to put chicken, pineapple, and BBQ sauce on it. It's incredible."



3. Now look at the advice from exercise 2 that you did not agree with and make better advice. Try to use some of the underlined phrases to give the advice.

E.g. "I wouldn't get a tattoo just to impress a girl if I were you. Why don't you just ask for her number?"

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Gerund vs Infinitive

Very often when there are two verbs next to each other, we simply add the word “to” between them. This is called an infinitive.

E.g. *“I want to go to the movies tomorrow.”*

“Want” and “go” are verbs, and if “want” has a verb after it, the verb takes the infinitive.

However, some verbs, such as “suggest”, “recommend”, and “avoid” are not followed by a verb with the infinitive. They are followed by a gerund. A gerund is simply the verb with “ing” added at the end.

E.g. *“I suggest having a drink before you fly, it will help you sleep.”*



4. Pairwork: choose a situation below and ask your partner for advice. Try to use some of the structures from exercise 1 to give advice to your partner.

E.g. *“I suggest talking to his parents and asking them what he wants for his birthday.”*

- a) It's your nephew's 15th birthday, but you have no idea what you should get him for a present.
- b) Your boss keeps giving you more and more work, you can barely keep up. Your colleague is going on holiday for a month next week and your boss just told you that you'll be doing her work while she's away.
- c) You have a friend who has bad personal hygiene. He often smells and sometimes has bad breath. You are thinking about telling him.
- d) Your mother-in-law is coming to visit next weekend. You want to impress her with a nice meal.
- e) You are thinking about getting a degree at university, but you are not sure whether to study film or architecture (or any other two subjects you can think of).
- f) You want to start saving money for a world trip, but you are not sure how to spend less money.
- g) Your partner and you are looking to buy a house together. Last week you looked at a house that your partner absolutely loves, but you don't like. You don't know why but you told your partner that you like the house.
- h) You have a month off, and you want to go on holiday, but you don't know where to go.
- i) Valentine's day is soon, and you need to organise a romantic date with your partner, but you're not sure where to go.





5. You have received an email from your friend who is visiting your city. Read the email and write a reply below.

Subject: We're coming to visit!!

Hi, long time no see!

Janette and I are coming to visit next month, and I wanted to ask you for some recommendations for things to do in your city! First of all, what do you think is the best area to stay in? There is a hotel next to the main train station, but we are not sure if it's a nice area.

Also, do you have any suggestions for something to do in nature there? Janette and I love hiking and cycling, where should we go if we want to do that?

And one last thing... I'm going to ask Janette to marry me (please keep it a secret!). Where do you think would be the most romantic place to do that? I'm very nervous, I want it to be perfect!

Thanks very much in advance for your advice, we're looking forward to seeing you!

Lots of love, Tom

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