

Starting Something New 2

Making Suggestions



Warm up:

- If you wanted to start a new business, who would you go to for advice?
- What's the best advice you have ever gotten?
- Do you often give advice at work or at school? What type of advice do you give?
- If you could start any business, what type of business would you start?



1. Read the conversation between Jason and Tessa and answer the questions below.

Tessa: Before we decide on what business to start, I think we should discuss money. This business could be anything from a small side business we do for fun, or something bigger, something that becomes our main job. But if it's something big, we'd better think about it pretty carefully, because we would need to put a lot more money into it.

Jason: Yeah, that's very true. Honestly, I don't want to do something small. I can't stand my job anymore, and I'm looking for something to replace it with. I think you feel the same way about your job, so I think it would be a good idea to think big.

Tessa: I agree. How about we discuss money first? I know we both have a good amount of money in the bank, but do you really want to spend that on starting a new business?


Jason: It depends on the business. Obviously, I don't want to invest all my savings into a bad business. But if I think it's a good idea, then I'd be ok with putting some of my savings into it. I was going to buy a new car next week, but now I think I'd better wait.

Tessa: Yeah, I wouldn't do that if I were you. We don't know how much starting a business will cost, and if we're both going to quit our jobs then there is a lot of financial uncertainty in our future.

Jason: True, but my current car is driving me nuts, it breaks down basically every month. But you're right. Why don't we meet this evening to look at your ideas for new businesses?

Tessa: Ok great, shall we meet at the café near your place?


- Why does Tessa think a bigger business would need more planning?
- Why doesn't Jason want to start a small side business?
- Why does Tessa think buying a car would be a bad idea?
- Why does Jason want to buy a new car?

 2. The conversation on the previous page contains 7 words and phrases used to make suggestions. Find 4 of them and compare your list with a partner.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

 3. Read the sentences and write advice for them using some of the words and phrases you found in exercise 1.


- a) "I have a great idea for a business but not enough money to start it."
e.g. "Why don't you go to a bank and ask for a loan?"
.....
- b) "My friend is asking me to lend him \$5000 so he can start an online sneaker business, he's promising to pay me back within 2 months."
.....
- c) "I have a graphic design business, and someone asked me to design logos for him, and in return he will post my work on Instagram for exposure. He has 50,000 followers."
.....
- d) "I've been offered a promotion at work. The pay would be the same, but I would have to work more hours. I'm not sure, because it could look good on my CV."
.....
- e) "My boyfriend never cleans up after himself at my house. He says it's my house and therefore my responsibility."
.....

 4. Roleplay: put the problems on the cards into your own words and ask your partner for advice. They will give you advice using some of the structures you have learned so far.

Student A

Situation 1
Recently you feel like you have very little energy and motivation, which is unusual for you. You would like to get your energy back.

Situation 2
Your partner (who you live with) wants to get a cat. You are slightly allergic to cats.



Situation 3
You are thinking about going to university to study either economics or architecture, but you're not sure which one to choose.

Student BSituation 1

You have a friend who seems to only message you when they need help. Outside of that, they never contact you and rarely reply to your messages.

Situation 2

You have been offered a job in another city (in your country) that comes with a 40% raise from your current salary, but also a lot more responsibility.

Situation 3

You want to start a small business, but you're not sure what type of business. Tell your partner what your interests are, and they will make a suggestion.

 [5. Jason and Tessa meet to discuss Tessa's ideas for businesses. Listen to the conversation¹ and answer the questions.](#)

- a) Why does Jason think the online clothes shop is a bad idea?
- b) What does Jason say they would need to do before starting a pet grooming business?
- c) Why does Tessa think the video game café idea is a good one?
- d) Why is Tessa not so sure about the bakery food truck idea?
- e) What is Jason going to research, and what is Tessa going to research?
- f) Do you think a bakery food truck is a good idea? Why or why not?



¹ <https://quick-and-easy-english.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Something-New-2.mp3>



6. Pairwork: You and your partner have decided to start a food or beverage truck together. Look through the categories below and make suggestions and decisions with your partner. Use the phrases in the box to help you. Make some notes about each section.

It would be a good idea to...

Why don't we...?

We should...

We could...

We'd better...

How about we...?

Type of food truck

When starting a food truck, one important choice is what kind of food to sell. You can choose something popular like burgers or pizza, which many people already like. However, there is also a lot of competition. Another option is to offer something more unique, like vegan food or food from a specific country. This can help you stand out, but it might attract fewer customers at the beginning.

Branding

Another important decision is how to promote your food truck. You can create a strong brand with a catchy name, logo, and design to attract attention. Do you want to be cute and colourful, or modern and stylish, or something completely different?

Marketing

Social media is the most obvious choice when it comes to a company like this, but how exactly will you use social media to get the word out? And what other means of advertising will you use?

Work and Responsibilities

A food truck may seem like a simple business, but it's more complicated than it seems. Who will do the accounting? Who will deal with making sure your truck is always stocked with food? Who will cook, and who will be in charge of marketing? And on top of that, how many hours do you want to work? Is this a full-time job for you, or more of a weekend gig?

Location and Strategy

Choosing where to sell your food is very important. Busy areas with many people can bring more customers, but there may also be more competition. You can stay in one regular spot or move to different locations each day. You should also consider what type of special events you want to target and why.



7. Now present your food truck business idea to the class.