

## 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?

a) Why does Tessa think a bigger business would need more planning? *Because it would cost more money and therefore be a bigger risk.*

b) Why doesn't Jason want to start a small side business? *They both want to quit their jobs and replace it with a business.*

c) Why does Tessa think buying a car would be a bad idea? *Because they will need to invest the money in their business.*

d) Why does Jason want to buy a new car? *Because it breaks down frequently.*



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.

*If I were you I would, we should, why don't we..?, shall we..?, we'd better, how about, it would be a good idea to...*

- 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 conversation<sup>1</sup> and answer the questions.

- a) Why does Jason think the online clothes shop is a bad idea? *He doesn't think he can make a website, and he doesn't want to spend all day looking at a computer.*
- b) What does Jason say they would need to do before starting a pet grooming business? *Get animal handling training.*
- c) Why does Tessa think the video game café idea is a good one? *She likes coffee and he likes video games*
- d) Why is Tessa not so sure about the bakery food truck idea? *Food trucks cost a lot of money.*
- e) What is Jason going to research, and what is Tessa going to research? *Jason is going to research the baking side, and Tessa is going to research the financial side.*
- f) Do you think a bakery food truck is a good idea? Why or why not?



<sup>1</sup> <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.**

## Audio Transcript

*Tessa: So, I've been thinking about this for a long time, I mean why don't we start our own business?*

*Jason: Ok, I'm listening, but what kind of business should we start?*

*Tessa: Well actually I've made a list of four different business ideas I have, would you like to hear them?*

*Jason: I'd love to.*

*Tessa: Ok great. So, the first business idea is a fashion business. I love design, and you're good with computers, so why don't we start a cool online clothes shop?*

*Jason: I mean... just because I'm good with computers doesn't mean I can make a website Tessa. And on top of that one of the main reasons I want to leave my current job is because I spend all day staring at a screen.*

*Tessa: Oh. Ok, I really thought you'd like that idea. I even made some t-shirts.*

*Jason: Oh I'm sorry... I do like it, I just think we'd better go through all the ideas before making a decision.*

*Tessa: Ok, no problem. Ok, my next idea is a pet washing service. We both love animals, and you have a car. People could book us and we could come to their house and wash their pets and give them haircuts.*

*Jason: That's a pretty good idea actually. But I don't think doing that is something you can just jump into. I think you need proper training to know how to handle animals.*

*Tessa: What do you mean?*

*Jason: Well, say someone hires us to come to their house and groom their dog, and they have a big, dangerous dog. Do you know how to deal with that situation?*

*Tessa: I didn't think of that. Damn.*

*Jason: Again, I'm not saying no, I just think we'd better look into what kind of training we would need for that first.*

*Tessa: Ok good point. So, the next business is a mix of things we like. I love coffee, and I know you love video games, so why don't we open a video game café? People could come in and have a coffee and play some video games.*

*Jason: Absolutely not.*

*Tessa: What?? Why not? I was sure you'd love that one.*

*Jason: Tessa have you ever seen a video game café? Picture 40 sweaty men who haven't stood up in hours because they can't stop playing. I know it sounds like a good idea, but if I were you, I'd forget it. Those places are almost always horrible.*

*Tessa: Ok wow. You are really not easy to please.*

*Jason: I'm sorry, but if we're going to start a business, we have to do it right. I really like*

*that you've had all these ideas, I just want to make sure we choose the right one. Do you have any other ideas?*

*Tessa: Just one. So, you know those food trucks? The ones that drive around to different events? We could make our own food truck, but it would be a bakery! We both like to bake, so why not?*

*Jason: Wait... is that even possible? I mean we would need a truck with ovens in it.*

*Tessa: I already looked into it, and yes it is, although it will be expensive.*

*Jason: A bakery food truck? Almost like an ice-cream truck but with donuts!*

*Tessa: Exactly!*

*Jason: That's genius! We could make pastries and drive to different events around the city!*

*Tessa: It's... a good idea.*

*Jason: It's a great idea! Wait, what's wrong, why aren't you excited?*

*Tessa: When I said the trucks are expensive, I wasn't kidding. You can buy food trucks with ovens in them... but they usually cost*

*Jason: How much do they cost?*

*Tessa: Around \$100,000.*

*Jason: Ouch... that is a lot. Can you afford half of that?*

*Tessa: I can... but only just. I have about \$60,000 in the bank. You?*

*Jason: Same here. But honestly, it's a really good idea. I think we'd better think about it pretty carefully and do some research first. How about we both do some research, and then we can talk about it later. How about I research the baking side of the business, and you research the financial side?*

*Tessa: Sounds good.*