

**Activity Type**

Reading and writing activity

**Language Focus**

Asking for and giving advice

**Aim**

To learn structures for asking and giving advice.

**Preparation**

Make one copy of the lesson for each student.

**Level**

Pre-intermediate

**Time**

50 minutes

**Introduction**

Here is an engaging three-page lesson that helps students learn how to ask for and give advice on everyday topics.

**Procedure**

Give each student a copy of the lesson.

Go through the language for asking and giving advice with the class.

Students then write a list of ten things that they would ask advice for, e.g. a low GPA, a broken heart, etc.

Next, students write mini-dialogues, asking for and giving advice on their ten topics.

After that, the students role-play the mini-dialogues with a partner.

The students then pretend they run an online advice column.

Students read three emails asking for advice and write replies, giving the best advice they can.

Finally, the students read out their replies and the other students say whether they agree with the advice or not.

**Asking for Advice**

- What do you think I should do (about...)?
- What should I do (about...)?
- What would you do (about...)?
- What would you suggest I do / I should do about...?
- Can / Could you give me some advice (about...)?



**Giving Advice**

- I think you should...
- Why don't you...?
- If I were you, I would...
- Maybe you should...
- I suggest you...
- How about (verb+ing...)?
- You might try (verb+ing...)
- I would advise you to...
- My advice would be to...
- It might be a good idea to...



**A. Write a list of ten things you would ask advice for.**

Examples: a low GPA, a broken heart, changing your job, etc.

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|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

**B. Write mini-dialogues, asking for and giving advice on your ten topics. Use the language from the previous page to help you.**

Example: a low GPA

A: What do you think I should do about my low GPA?B: I think you should try harder in every class.

1. A: \_\_\_\_\_

B: \_\_\_\_\_

2. A: \_\_\_\_\_

B: \_\_\_\_\_

3. A: \_\_\_\_\_

B: \_\_\_\_\_

4. A: \_\_\_\_\_

B: \_\_\_\_\_

5. A: \_\_\_\_\_

B: \_\_\_\_\_

6. A: \_\_\_\_\_

B: \_\_\_\_\_

7. A: \_\_\_\_\_

B: \_\_\_\_\_

8. A: \_\_\_\_\_

B: \_\_\_\_\_

9. A: \_\_\_\_\_

B: \_\_\_\_\_

10. A: \_\_\_\_\_

B: \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Now, role-play the mini-dialogues with a partner.**

**D. You run an online advice column called 'Dear John'. Read the emails asking for advice and write a reply to each one. Try to give the best advice you can. Remember to use language for giving advice in your response.**

Dear John,

I study at university. We have our final exams in two weeks. I'm very worried about my best friend. He is planning to cheat in the upcoming examinations. What should I do?

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Dear John,

My friends keep complaining that I spend too much time with my boyfriend. They say I never hang out with them anymore. I don't want to lose my friends, but at the same time, I want to see my boyfriend as much as possible. What would you suggest I do?

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Dear John,

I'm having a real problem with my roommate. I like to keep our apartment clean, but my roommate is very messy. She throws her clothes and stuff all over the place, while I'm trying hard to keep the apartment neat and tidy. What do you think I should do?

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**E. Read out your replies to the class. Do the other students agree with your advice?**