

### Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity

### Language Focus

Making suggestions  
 Accepting and rejecting suggestions

### Aim

To learn how to make, accept and reject suggestions.

### Preparation

Make one copy of the lesson for each student.

### Level

Pre-intermediate

### Time

60 minutes

### Introduction

In this engaging topic-based lesson, students learn how to make, accept and reject suggestions.

### Procedure

Give each student a copy of the lesson.

Students begin by looking at pictures of eight presents and writing the names of the presents below the pictures.

Answer key - Exercise A

a watch, socks, a book, a birthday cake, a tie, tickets for a football match, headphones, a camera.

After the answers have been checked, students rank the presents from the most to the least expensive.

The students then answer questions about which present they would most and least like to receive for their birthday and which would be the best and worst present for their dad.

Afterwards, get feedback on the students' answers.

Students then complete a gap-fill dialogue where two people are suggesting presents for their dad's birthday.

Answer key - Exercise C

- |                   |                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. Shall we       | 5. Why don't      | 9. Let's    |
| 2. don't think    | 6. instead        | 10. perfect |
| 3. How/What about | 7. How/What about |             |
| 4. don't think so | 8. sounds good    |             |

Check the answers with the class and then have the students identify and write down the phrases used for making, accepting and rejecting suggestions from the dialogue.

| Making a suggestion | Accepting              | Rejecting                         |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Shall we...?        | Yes, that sounds good. | I don't think that's a good idea. |
| How about...?       |                        |                                   |
| What about...?      | That's perfect.        | I don't think so.                 |
| Why don't we...?    |                        |                                   |
| Let's...            |                        |                                   |

Next, students answer questions about the dialogue and discuss their answers in pairs.

Finally, the students create a conversation where they make, accept and reject suggestions for a friend's birthday present using a set of prompts together with the language they have learnt. Students then present their conversations to the class.

A. Below are pictures of eight presents. Write the names of the presents under the pictures.

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
|   |   |   |   |
| <i>a watch</i>   |  |   |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |   |  |

B. Answer the questions about the presents.

1. Rank the presents from the most expensive (1) to the least expensive (8).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which present would you most and least like to receive for your birthday? Why?

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3. Which would be the best and worst present for your dad? Why?

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C. Fred and Lucy are suggesting birthday presents for their dad. Complete the dialogue with the words from the box.

|           |             |             |            |                |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| let's     | how about   | instead     | what about | don't think so |
| why don't | don't think | sounds good | perfect    | shall we       |

Lucy: It's Dad's birthday on Friday. (1) \_\_\_\_\_ buy him some socks?

Fred: I (2) \_\_\_\_\_ that's a good idea. Socks are such a boring present to give someone.

Lucy: (3) \_\_\_\_\_ taking him to a football match then?

Fred: Hmm. I (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The tickets would be quite expensive. (5) \_\_\_\_\_ we make a birthday cake for him (6) \_\_\_\_\_?

Lucy: We are both terrible at cooking. (7) \_\_\_\_\_ buying him a watch?

Fred: Yes, that (8) \_\_\_\_\_. He doesn't have a watch. (9) \_\_\_\_\_ go to the shopping mall this afternoon and buy one.

Lucy: That's (10) \_\_\_\_\_.

D. Which phrases do Fred and Lucy use to...

1: make a suggestion

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2: accept a suggestion

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3: reject a suggestion

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E. Answer the following questions about Lucy and Fred's conversation.

1. Which presents from Exercise A do Fred and Lucy talk about?

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2. Which present do they decide on? Why?

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3. Do you agree with their choice? Why (not)?

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Now, discuss your answers with a partner.

F. It's your friend's birthday next week and you want to get him or her a present. In pairs, follow the prompts below and create a conversation where you make, accept and reject suggestions for a friend's birthday present.

**Student A**

Mention it's a friend's birthday and suggest buying a present

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Suggest a present

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Reject the suggestion and suggest an alternative

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Accept and suggest a place to meet

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**Student B**

Accept the suggestion

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Reject the suggestion and suggest an alternative

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Accept and suggest when to buy it

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Accept the suggestion

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G. Now, present your conversation to the class.