

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity

Language Focus

Making suggestions

Aim

To give suggestions for a set of problems and to work together in a group to reach an agreement on a solution for each one.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Low intermediate

Time

40 minutes

Introduction

In this intriguing worksheet activity, students give suggestions for a set of problems and then work together in a group to reach an agreement on a solution for each one.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Go through the problems on the worksheet with the class and check the students understand each one.

Tell the students that they are going to make suggestions for each problem.

Write the following language for making suggestions on the board:

Why doesn't he/she...?

He/She could...

I suggest he/she...

Perhaps he/she could/should...

Maybe he/she could/should...

Write the first problem on the board: Your mother has problems getting to sleep at night.

Elicit possible suggestions from around the class, e.g. 'Perhaps she could do some exercise in the evening'. 'I suggest she meditates before she goes to bed', etc.

Working alone, the students then come up with one or two suggestions to deal with each problem and write them in the second column of the worksheet.

When the students have finished writing, divide them into groups of three or four.

Students then discuss each problem in turn, give their suggestions and try to reach an agreement on a solution for each one.

Afterwards, have a class feedback session. Go through the problems and ask the groups to share their solutions with the class. The class then decides on the best solution for each problem.

Problems	Suggestions	Solutions
1. Your mother has problems getting to sleep at night.		
2. Your brother wants to learn to dance, but he's shy.		
3. Your grandmother has a ghost in her house.		
4. Your friend wants to buy a new car, but he/she doesn't have enough money.		
5. Your uncle was looking after a friend's cat and now he can't find it.		
6. Your sister has almost finished school, but she doesn't know what kind of job she wants.		
7. Your teacher's computer isn't working well. It's very slow.		
8. Your father wants to start working out, but he has a bad back.		
9. Your neighbour's dog barks all the time. It's driving your flatmate crazy.		
10. Your brother wants to quit smoking.		
11. Your friend forgot his girlfriend's birthday yesterday.		
12. Your grandfather has a terrible memory. He keeps forgetting things.		
13. Your friend works very hard but is not getting paid enough.		
14. Your best friend always arrives late to class.		
15. Your sister won the lottery, but she doesn't know what to do with the money.		