

Activity Type

Writing, listening and speaking activity

Focus

Asking for and giving advice

Aim

To ask for and give advice and then to choose the best piece of advice you received, giving reasons for your answer.

Preparation

Copy one problem card and one advice card for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

In this stating problems and giving advice activity, students ask for and give advice and then choose the best piece of advice they received, giving reasons for their answer.

Procedure

Write some structures for asking and giving advice on the board.

Examples:

What should I do?	I think you should...
What do you think I should do?	You ought to...
What's your advice?	My advice is to...

Demonstrate the activity by telling the class that your computer has a virus and ask for some advice from the students.

Write the students' ideas on the board.

Then, ask the students which advice they think is the best and why.

Next, give each student a problem card and an advice card.

Divide the students into pairs.

Tell the students that they have two minutes to ask their partner for advice about the problem on their card and write down the advice they receive on the advice card.

When the two minutes are up, students pair up with a new partner and repeat the process until they have spoken to eight people.

When the students have finished, they choose the best piece of advice and write on their card why they think it's the best.

Afterwards, have a class feedback session and ask the students to tell the class about their problem and the best advice they received.

Problem cards

My dog won't stop barking.

I can't seem to save any money.

I'm bored of my job.

I have problems getting to sleep at night.

I never finish my homework on time.

I want to exercise, but I don't have enough time.

I want to stop eating junk food.

I want to improve my English skills.

I don't have many friends.

I forgot my boyfriend/girlfriend's birthday.

I'm always late for class.

I have no fashion sense.

I spend too much time playing with my phone.

I'm lonely.

I want to go on a diet, but I like eating.

I don't have any money.

I waste too much time watching TV.

I want to stop smoking.

I don't feel confident to speak English.

I want to meet people from different countries, but I don't know how.

Advice cards

Advice	Advice
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.
The best advice:	The best advice:
Reason:	Reason:

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Advice	Advice
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.
The best advice:	The best advice:
Reason:	Reason: