



Expressing yourself: ways of giving advice

Overview: In this lesson learners revise and extend their knowledge of expressions for giving advice, and practise using these expressions. They also practise reporting advice.

Total time for activities: 30 – 35 minutes

Level: upper intermediate to advanced

EXPRESSING
YOURSELF

Teacher's Notes

1. Before class, cut up the Student's Copy so that you have individual copies of Worksheets A and B for each learner. You will need one copy of Worksheet C per group of three learners; cut up the three situations separately.
2. Open the lesson by asking the class to give you advice about a real or imaginary problem. For example, say 'There's a film on TV tonight that I really want to watch, but I've got lots of marking to do'. Respond to their suggestions, and then tell them that this lesson will be about ways of giving advice.
3. Distribute **Worksheet A**. Learners work on the task in pairs. If they find this difficult, help them by writing the missing words on the board in a jumbled order:

would / you / advised / better / take / want / were / why / should / to

Check answers in plenary.

Answers

1. You'd better set off – you don't want to be late for your interview, do you?
2. I think you ought to go and see a doctor about that cough of yours. You never know, it could be something serious.
3. I wouldn't eat so much fried food, if I were you. I'm sure it can't be good for you.
4. Why don't you try taking the train? It's much more relaxing than driving.
5. You'd be well advised to do a thorough comparison of quality and prices before you decide which one to buy.
6. You really should get yourself a new computer, and donate that one to a museum!
7. Don't you think it'd be a good idea to start revising for your exam? There isn't much time left.
8. Take it from me, there's no point buying cheap clothes. It's a false economy – they don't last.
9. If you want my advice, don't leave your bike there. It's bound to get stolen.
10. I strongly advise you to reconsider your decision.

In sentence 1 you can use 'best' instead of 'better'. In sentence 7 you can say 'it would', but the contraction 'it'd' is more common. You can use 'it might' instead of 'it'd' if you want to sound more tentative. Point out the difference in pronunciation and spelling between the verb 'advise' /əd'vaɪz/ (sentence 5) and the noun 'advice' /əd'vaɪs/ (sentence 9).

4. On the board, display these questions:
 - a. Which expression in Worksheet A can you use to emphasise that you are giving advice based on your own experience?
Answer: Take it from me. You can also say this after you have given your advice: 'There's no point buying cheap clothes. Take it from me.'
 - b. Which expression in Worksheet A can you use when you offer advice to someone although you think they may not want to hear it?
Answer: If you want my advice ...
 - c. Which two expressions in Worksheet A can you use to give advice in more formal and serious situations?
Answer: You'd be well advised to ... / I strongly advise you to ...



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5. Distribute **Worksheet B**. Learners work on the task in pairs. Check answers in plenary.

Answers

1. Can I ask you for some advice? ('Advice' is an uncountable noun.)
2. What would you advise me to do?
3. You'd better not wait for me – I don't know how long I'll be.
4. You'd better take plenty of water with you – it's a long way and it'll be hot. (The contraction "d' in 'you'd better' is a contraction of 'had', not 'would'.)
5. You'd be well advised to take better care of yourself.
6. ~~If you~~ Take it from me, this is the best place to buy fruit and veg.

6. Write on the board:

If you want my advice, don't leave your bike here.

- a. He advised me not to ...
- b. He advised me to ...
- c. He advised me against ...
- d. He advised me that ...

Learners consider how they would complete the four sentences reporting advice by themselves. Then, learners work in pairs to complete the sentences. Elicit answers and write the complete sentences on the board.

Possible answers

- a. He advised me not to leave my bike here.
- b. He advised me to leave my bike somewhere else.
- c. He advised me against leaving my bike here.
- d. He advised me that this wouldn't be a safe place to leave my bike.

Leave the answers displayed on the board.

7. Divide the class into groups of three. Distribute the three situations from **Worksheet C** to each group, face down. The three members of each group take one of the situations each, without showing it to the other members of the group. They should spend a couple of minutes reading their situations. They can make notes. Emphasise that they are free to improvise and develop their situations as they wish.
8. Student A in each group describes their situation and students B and C offer advice, trying to use as many different expressions as possible, especially ones which they are relatively unfamiliar with or do not regularly use, referring to Worksheet A if necessary. Student A should respond appropriately to this advice.
9. Repeat the same procedure twice, with student B and then student C describing their situations and being offered advice.



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10. Draw the attention of the class back to the ways of reporting advice on the board, and add these verbs:

take disregard accept ignore follow reject

Learners now report some of the advice they were given, and say how they responded to this advice, using one of the verbs listed above. For example:

“X advised me not to ... and I think I’m going to follow her advice, because ... ”

“X advised me against ... , but I’ll probably disregard his advice, because ... ”

Follow-up

- ▶ Ask learners to bring problems for which they need advice to a subsequent lesson. These situations can be invented or real.



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Worksheet A

Giving advice 1

Complete the sentences with the missing words.

1. You'd _____ set off – you don't want to be late for your interview, do you?
2. I think you ought _____ go and see a doctor about that cough of yours. You never know, it could be something serious.
3. I wouldn't eat so much fried food, if I _____ you. I'm sure it can't be good for you.
4. _____ don't you try taking the train? It's much more relaxing than driving.
5. You'd be well _____ to do a thorough comparison of quality and prices before you decide which one to buy.
6. You really _____ get yourself a new computer, and donate that one to a museum!
7. Don't you think it _____ be a good idea to start revising for your exam? There isn't much time left.
8. _____ it from me, there's no point buying cheap clothes. It's a false economy – they don't last.
9. If you _____ my advice, don't leave your bike there. It's bound to get stolen.
10. I strongly advise _____ to reconsider your decision.



Worksheet B

Giving advice 2

Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1. Can I ask you for an advice?
2. What would you advice me to do?
3. You'd better don't wait for me – I don't know how long I'll be.
4. You would better take plenty of water with you – it's a long way and it'll be hot.
5. You'd been well advised to take better care of yourself.
6. If you take it from me, this is the best place to buy fruit and veg.



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Worksheet C

Situation 1

One of your cousins, who you quite like but who you're not particularly close to, is getting married, and you've been invited to the wedding. You don't really want to go, because it's a long way away and you'd need to stay overnight, and the date isn't very convenient for you anyway. On top of that, you haven't really got anything suitable to wear, and you'd also have to buy a present for the bride and groom, and you're rather short of money at the moment. On the other hand, the wedding would be a good opportunity to meet up with other members of the family who you don't get to see very often – and some of them might be offended if you don't turn up.

Situation 2

You live in a small town, and you've been offered a job in the capital city. The job seems to offer good future prospects, but the initial contract is only for six months. You'd earn quite a bit more than you do at the moment, but life in the capital is much more expensive. In particular, you'd have to pay a lot for accommodation, and spend a lot of time commuting. You're quite happy in your present job, which is just a few minutes' walk from where you live, and you get on well with the people you work with, so you'd be reluctant to leave. On the other hand, your current opportunities for career development are rather limited.

Situation 3

You're considering enrolling on a month-long English course in Britain in the summer. You feel it would really give a boost to your progress in English. But it would be expensive, taking into account travel, accommodation and living expenses as well as the course itself. Another thing that makes you doubtful is that you're slightly hesitant about the prospect of spending so much time in a strange place where you don't know anyone. You're also a little bit lazy, and you quite fancy the idea of spending your holiday lying on a beach somewhere; after all, you can take your laptop with you and practise your English online, can't you?