

TALKING ABOUT PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Read the language in the boxes below and check you understand the meaning and use of the phrases.

<p>INTRODUCING A PROBLEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can I have a quick word (with you)? • Do you have a minute (to talk/chat)? • There's something I'd like to discuss • (I'm afraid) there is a slight problem with... 	<p>ASKING FOR ADVICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think/suggest I should do? • Do you think I should + (inf. verb) • Have you got any ideas? • What would you do if you were me? • Do you think + (verb-ing).. is a good idea?
<p>GIVING ADVICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You (probably) should(n't) + (inf. verb) • I recommend/suggest + (verb-ing) • It might be worth + (verb-ing) • If I were you, I would(n't) + (inf. verb) • You could (always) try + (verb-ing) • Have you tried/considered + (verb-ing) • Have you thought about + (verb-ing) • It would probably be better to + (inf. verb) • As a last resort, you could + (inf. verb) • (Verb-ing) + (clause) + is worth a try/shot/go. 	<p>GIVING STRONG ADVICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must(n't) + (inf. verb) • You had better + (inf. verb) • You have no choice but to + (inf. verb) • Whatever you do, don't + (inf. verb) • Your only option is to + (inf. verb) • I'd highly recommend/suggest + (verb-ing) • The sooner you + (inf. verb) + (clause), the better.
<p>RESPONDING POSITIVELY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That's a good idea. • I never thought of that. • Yes. That might work/help. • I think you're right. I'll do that. • I'll give it a go/try/shot (and see what happens) 	<p>RESPONDING NEGATIVELY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (No.) I don't think so. • I don't think that would help. • I'm not (so) sure about that. • I've already tried that. • I don't think that's the answer/solution (but thanks anyway.)

TASK: With a partner, take it in turns to ask for and give advice concerning the problems below.

Remember to respond to the advice positively or negatively.

1. You are working on a team project and one of your colleagues is extremely lazy and participates as little as possible. Tell your partner the problem, ask for advice and respond.
2. You received an email this morning from an unknown person asking you to contribute to a ten million dollar investment. Tell your partner about the email and ask for advice and respond.
3. You have been offered a job that pays nearly double your current salary. The downside is you will have to relocate to China. Tell your partner the problem, ask for advice and respond.
4. You are currently doing a lot of overtime work which isn't paid. You feel this is unfair and your workload is too much. Tell your partner the problem, ask for advice and respond.
5. You have been working really hard recently and you feel extremely stressed. Tell your partner the problem, ask for advice and respond.
6. You need to take a client out for dinner but you only have a budget of £100 for both of you. Tell your partner the problem, ask for advice and respond.