

Top Class Teaching System
Level: Pre-Intermediate/Intermediate
Topic: Making and Responding to Suggestions

Making suggestions

There are a number of different ways that we can make suggestions to other people.

Shall we + infinitive?

Shall we go to the cinema tonight?

Let's + infinitive

Let's have a beer

Why don't we + infinitive?

Why don't we try the new Italian restaurant in the city centre?

I was wondering if you would like to + infinitive (very polite)

I was wondering if you would like to have a coffee tomorrow afternoon.

How about + verb+ing?

How about watching the match later?

Do you fancy +verb+ing? (Very informal)

Do you fancy going shopping today?

Responding to suggestions

It's OK to say 'yes' or 'no' but English people would normally not just use these answers. There are a lot of different ways to say 'yes' or 'no' to a suggestion

Saying Yes

Absolutely!

Why not?

Sure

Sounds good to me

Fine by me

Suits me

Works for me

Saying No

I'd rather not

That's not my cup of tea

That doesn't suit me

That doesn't work for me

If you say no, a good idea is to use one of these phrases and then one of the phrases for making suggestions. For example:

A: Why don't we meet in the city centre?

B: That doesn't work for me. Let's meet at my house.

A: Do you fancy having Chinese food tonight?

B: Chinese food is not my cup of tea. How about having Indian?

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Practice

Find and complete 10 mistakes in this conversation

- Luke: Hey Andrea! How are you?
Andrea: Fine thanks Luke. And you?
Luke: Really well. Do you fancy meet up tonight after work?
Andrea: Fine to me. Where do you want to go?
Luke: Let go to the cinema.
Andrea: OK. Works by me. Shall watch a romantic film?
Luke: I rather not. How about watching a thriller?
Andrea: Sure! Why no? Where shall we meet? Why do we meet at the pub and have a drink before the cinema?
Luke: Suit me. Shall we meeting at 8pm?
Andrea: Absolutely. See you at 8pm!

What can you remember?

Which words are missing from these sentences? (Try to do this without using the notes)

1. I'd rather _____.
2. Fine _____ me
3. Works _____ me
4. That's not my _____ of _____
5. Do you _____ meeting later?
6. I was _____ if you would like to meet up tonight
7. Why _____ we watch a film?
8. That doesn't _____ me
9. How _____ going swimming later?

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Answers

Find and complete 10 mistakes in this conversation

- Luke: Hey Andrea! How are you?
Andrea: Fine thanks Luke. And you?
Luke: Really well. Do you fancy ~~meet~~ **meeting** up tonight after work?
Andrea: Fine ~~to~~ **by** me. Where do you want to go?
Luke: ~~Let~~ **Let's** go to the cinema.
Andrea: OK. Works ~~by~~ **for** me. Shall **we** watch a romantic film?
Luke: † **I'd** rather not. How about watching a thriller?
Andrea: Sure! Why ~~no~~ **not**? Where shall we meet? Why ~~do~~ **don't** we meet at the pub and have a drink before the cinema?
Luke: ~~Suit~~ **Suits** me. Shall we ~~meeting~~ **meet** at 8pm?
Andrea: Absolutely. See you at 8pm!

What can you remember?

Which words are missing from these sentences? (Try to do this without using the notes)

1. I'd rather not.
2. Fine by me
3. Works for me
4. That's not my cup of tea
5. Do you fancy meeting later?
6. I was wondering if you would like to meet up tonight
7. Why don't we watch a film?
8. That doesn't suit me
9. How about going swimming later?