

Everyday advice clinic

B1-B2 functional language. Cut up the cards. Choose a problem and invent two extra details. Your partner asks questions, offers two suggestions and explains the reasons. Choose the suggestion that suits your situation.

1. The distracted cook I keep burning dinner because I read messages while cooking.	2. Too many notifications My phone interrupts me whenever I try to study.
3. A new hobby I want to join a drama club, but I don't know anyone there.	4. The unfinished project I start lots of drawings but rarely finish one.
5. A crowded timetable I have agreed to help with three clubs on the same afternoon.	6. A noisy workspace My flatmate plays music when I need to concentrate.
7. The lost charger I'm away for the weekend and have forgotten my phone charger.	8. A group project One person in our group has not done the work they agreed to do.
9. The wrong present I bought my friend a book they already own.	10. A new recipe I want to cook for friends, but everyone likes different food.
11. The forgotten appointment I keep forgetting when my club meetings start.	12. Holiday plans My friend wants a busy city break, but I would prefer a quiet holiday.
13. A spending limit I want to organise a birthday outing without spending much money.	14. The crowded room My desk is covered with things, and I can't find my notes.

Use an imaginary situation. After each conversation, swap roles and choose a new card.

Everyday advice clinic - Language and procedure

Ask before you advise

What have you tried so far?

What would you like to change?

What is the most difficult part?

Is there anything that would make that suggestion difficult?

Offer a suggestion and a reason

If I were you, I would + verb...

Why don't you + verb...?

Have you tried + -ing...?

Have you thought about + -ing...?

Maybe you could + verb...

I would suggest + -ing...

It might be a good idea to + verb...

One possibility would be to + verb...

Respond and keep talking

That could work because...

I'm not sure that would suit me because...

What if I...?

Perhaps I could try... instead.

Try it out

A: I can't find my notes because my desk is covered with things.

B: What do you need to keep on the desk?

A: My laptop and the notes I'm using today.

B: Maybe you could put the other notes in labelled folders. It would be easier to find them.

A: That could work. I could keep a folder for each subject.

Teacher notes

Use the cards for short rotating conversations. Notice whether partners ask questions before giving advice and explain their suggestions. Praise useful responses as well as accurate forms. There is no fixed answer key. These are ordinary practical problems, so no clinical role or assessment claim is needed.