

43 Making suggestions

You can use the modal verb "could" to offer suggestions. "Could" is not as strong as "should." It communicates gentle advice.

 **New language** "Could" for suggestions

 **Aa Vocabulary** Advice

 **New skill** Making suggestions

43.1 KEY LANGUAGE "COULD" FOR SUGGESTIONS

"Could" is often used to suggest a solution to a problem. It introduces possibilities but not preferences.

I hate my car!



Well, **you could get** a new one!



"Could" means that the action is a possibility; a choice that might solve the problem.



43.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES "COULD" FOR SUGGESTIONS

You could study science in college.

We could learn English in Canada next year.

They could buy a bigger house with a yard.

You could get a job at that new restaurant in town.



43.3 HOW TO FORM "COULD" FOR SUGGESTIONS

SUBJECT

"COULD"

VERB

REST OF SENTENCE

You

could

get

a new car.

"Could" is a modal verb, so it doesn't change with the subject.

The main verb goes in its base form.



43.4 MATCH THE PROBLEMS TO THE CORRECT SUGGESTIONS

- 1 I don't speak English very well.
- 2 I didn't pass my driving test last week.
- 3 I haven't got any nice clothes.
- 4 I can never remember people's names.
- 5 I never know what time it is.
- 6 Oh no. I forgot to lock the front door.

You could buy some new ones.

You could write them down after you meet them.

You could practice with your Australian friend.

You could buy a watch.

We could go back to your house now.

Oh well, you could take it again next month.



43.5 CHOOSE THE CORRECT SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PANEL, THEN SAY THE SENTENCES OUT LOUD

I play the piano, but I'm not very good.

You could play every day.



I want to have a picnic, but it's raining.

You could _____.



- 1 I haven't got enough money for a vacation.

You could _____.



- 4 I'd like to rent a house, but it's too expensive.

You could _____.



- 2 I'm going out, but nobody can look after Fido.

You could _____.



- 5 How can I write a book by December?

You could _____.



share with a friend

save \$10 a week

play every day

take him with you

eat it inside

write 500 words every day



43.6 KEY LANGUAGE USING “COULD” AND “OR” FOR SUGGESTIONS

When people give suggestions using “could,” they often give more than one option to choose from.

Our friends are coming over for dinner, but the oven’s broken.



We could make a salad **or** we could order a pizza.

Use “or” to give an alternative suggestion.



43.7 FURTHER EXAMPLES USING “COULD” AND “OR” FOR SUGGESTIONS

I can’t drive, but I want to travel along the coast.



You could take a bus **or** travel in a friend’s car.

You don’t have to repeat the modal verb “could” after “or.”

What should I wear to Jan’s wedding?



You could wear your new dress **or** a skirt.

If the main verb is the same for both suggestions, you don’t repeat it after “or.”



43.8 USE THE PHRASES TO WRITE SUGGESTIONS USING “COULD” AND “OR”

You can’t sleep at night. You could read a book **or** have a hot drink.

- 1 You don’t know what to do for the summer. You could _____ **or** _____.
- 2 What are you going to make for dinner tonight? You could cook _____ **or** _____.
- 3 You want to be a better tennis player. You could _____ **or** _____.
- 4 You can’t wake up in the mornings. You could _____ **or** _____.

read a book

get a job

have a hot drink

travel

chicken

set an alarm

have some lessons

go to bed earlier

beef

play more often





43.9 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND MARK THE TWO SUGGESTIONS GIVEN TO SOLVE EACH PROBLEM

Anya can't understand her English teacher very well. She could...

ask him to speak slowly. ask for notes on the lesson. record the lesson.

1 Jim hasn't got time to do the chores at home. He could...

get his children to help. get a cleaner. not worry about it.

2 Mandy needs to get a new job. She could...

look in the newspaper. ask friends. look at a website.

3 Some students aren't very good at writing in English. They could...

read more English books. write in English every day. email a new friend in English.

4 It's hard to find time to exercise. People could...

take the stairs. take the elevator. walk to the store.

43 CHECKLIST

"Could" for suggestions

Aa Advice

Making suggestions

REVIEW THE ENGLISH YOU HAVE LEARNED IN UNITS 41–43

| NEW LANGUAGE | SAMPLE SENTENCE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | UNIT |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|------|
| USING "MIGHT" WITH FUTURE POSSIBILITIES | I might have a vacation. | <input type="checkbox"/> | 41.1 |
| USING "MIGHT" WITH UNCERTAINTY | I might go to town. I'm not sure. I don't know . I might have some pizza. | <input type="checkbox"/> | 41.7 |
| USING "SHOULD" TO GIVE ADVICE | It's very sunny. You should wear a hat. | <input type="checkbox"/> | 42.1 |
| USING "SHOULDN'T" TO GIVE ADVICE | You're sick. You shouldn't go to work today. | <input type="checkbox"/> | 42.2 |
| USING "COULD" FOR SUGGESTIONS | You could get a new car. | <input type="checkbox"/> | 43.1 |
| USING "OR" FOR SUGGESTIONS | We could make a salad or order a pizza. | <input type="checkbox"/> | 43.6 |