

# 55 Giving advice

The phrase "If I were you" is often used to give advice in English. By saying it, you imagine that you are in the same position as the person you are talking to.

 **New language** "If I were you"

 **Aa Vocabulary** Phrases for giving advice

 **New skill** Making suggestions

## 55.1 KEY LANGUAGE "IF I WERE YOU"

English uses "if I were you" to give advice in second conditional sentences. The advice is expressed using "I would."

I don't know if I should take this job.



If I were you, I would take it.

The advice comes after "I would."



## 55.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES "IF I WERE YOU"

I'm going to the concert tonight.



If I were you, I'd set off early. The traffic is awful.

I think I'll buy this shirt.



I wouldn't buy it if I were you. I don't like the pattern.

The suggestion can come first without changing the meaning.

There is no comma before "if."



## 55.3 REWRITE THE SENTENCES, REVERSING THE ORDER OF THE PHRASES

If I were you, I wouldn't leave my job.

I wouldn't leave my job if I were you.

1 I'd apply for a promotion if I were you.

3 I wouldn't buy that car if I were you.

4 If I were you, I'd take a long vacation.

2 If I were you, I'd invest some of my money.

5 I'd start my own company if I were you.





## 55.4 MARK THE SENTENCES THAT ARE CORRECT

If I were you, I'd buy that house.

If I were you, I'll buy that house.

- 1 I'd call a doctor if I was you.
- I'd call a doctor if I were you.
- 2 If I were you, I'd study harder.
- If I were you, study harder.
- 3 I wouldn't go out if I were you.
- I won't go out if I were you.
- 4 If I were you, I join a choir.
- If I were you, I'd join a choir.
- 5 If I were you, I wouldn't tell him.
- If I were you, don't tell him.



## 55.5 USE “IF I WERE YOU” TO GIVE ADVICE, SPEAKING OUT LOUD

There is a boat for sale that Javid likes.

If I were you, I'd buy the boat.

1 The car Ava wants to drive has a flat tire.  
\_\_\_\_\_ change the

2 Mia has been offered a promotion at work.  
\_\_\_\_\_ take the promotion

3 André wants to go outside in the rain.  
\_\_\_\_\_ go outside

4 Lily has been invited to a great party.  
\_\_\_\_\_ go to the party



## 55.6 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



Connor asks his colleague Isobel for some advice at work.

How does Connor feel about the work presentation he was asked to do?

- Excited
- Scared
- Bored

1 How does Isobel think Connor should feel?

- Happy
- Angry
- Nervous

2) What does Connor think he is bad at?

- Meeting clients
- Coming up with ideas
- Talking to large groups of people

3) What has Connor done at work in the past?

- Won prizes
- Made lots of money
- Been promoted

4) What doesn't Isobel say Connor should do?

- Practice the presentation
- Call in sick
- Talk to Jamila

## 55.7 KEY LANGUAGE QUESTION PHRASES WITH GERUNDS

To make suggestions, you can use a variety of opening question phrases. These are always followed by a gerund.

What should we do tonight?



How about **eating** in that new restaurant?

Question phrase.

Gerund.

I need to tell you something.



What about **having** a chat over dinner?

I'm so bored!



Have you tried **doing** something new?

I love pizza, but it's expensive.



Have you thought of **making** it yourself?



## 55.8 REWRITE THE SENTENCES USING QUESTION PHRASES WITH GERUNDS

You should make a list of the advantages and disadvantages of the situation.

How about **making a list of the advantages and disadvantages of the situation?**

1 You should discuss the idea with your colleagues and see what they think of it.

Have you tried \_\_\_\_\_

2 We should meet our new clients for dinner at a nice restaurant.

How about \_\_\_\_\_

3 You should plan a marketing strategy with your team before you present it to your boss.

What about \_\_\_\_\_

4 You should invest in property and buy some apartments to rent out.

Have you thought of \_\_\_\_\_



## 55.9 USE THE CHART TO CREATE 12 CORRECT SENTENCES AND SAY THEM OUT LOUD

How about talking to your colleagues?

How about  
What about  
Have you tried  
Have you thought of

talking  
hiring

to your colleagues?  
to your boss?  
extra staff?



## 55.10 READ THE ARTICLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

LIFESTYLE

# Digital detox

by lifestyle expert Alison Grant

- How about turning off your phone and computer at night? You will sleep much better.
- Have you tried using an alarm clock instead of your phone? You won't be tempted to surf the net in bed with an alarm clock.
- If you're lost, have you thought of asking a real person for directions instead of looking at your smartphone? You might even make a new friend.
- In the evenings, how about doing something creative like baking a cake? The sense of achievement will feel great!
- Finally, what about having a gadget-free day, so you can really connect with the people you love?

Turning off gadgets at night will stop you sleeping.

True  False  Not given

1 You can't go online with an ordinary alarm clock.

True  False  Not given

2 Smartphones don't give accurate directions.

True  False  Not given

3 Alison Grant thinks you shouldn't talk to strangers.

True  False  Not given

4 Doing creative things will make you feel positive.

True  False  Not given

5 Alison Grant thinks you should always use gadgets.

True  False  Not given

6 People who never use gadgets have more friends.

True  False  Not given

## 55 ✓ CHECKLIST

"If I were you"

Aa Phrases for giving advice

Making suggestions