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ASK!

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- What do you think I should do?
- What should I do?
- What do you suggest?
- What do you advise me to do?
- If you were me what would you do?
- What ought I to do?
- Do you think that I should...?

- **What do you suggest / recommend** we do this evening?
- **What should I do** when I'm in Brighton?
- **What ought I** do on Sunday?
- **Could you recommend** a good restaurant near here?
- **Could you suggest** somewhere to go for a drink?
- **Do you know** the quickest way to the train station?
- **Do you have any advice on** visiting the British Museum?
- **Could you advise me** on the best way to get to Boston Harbour?
- **What's your advice** on hitchhiking in America?



Use a modal verb

There are two modal verbs we often use for giving advice: 'should' and 'ought to'. Both mean the same thing but work in slightly different ways. Let's look at some examples.

- *You should* *do more exercise.*
You shouldn't *drink so much beer.*

As you can see above, after 'should' we use an infinitive without 'to'.

- *You ought to* *do more exercise.*
You ought not to *drink so much beer.*

Unlike 'should', we always use 'to' in 'ought to' for giving advice.

Make it into a question

To make advice less direct, we can use a question to make the person we are advising consider about the advice we are giving them.

- Why don't you do some more exercise?
- How about doing some more exercise?

With the question 'Why don't you...?' we use an infinitive without 'to'.
When we use 'How about...?' to make a question, we use a gerund after it.

Put yourself in the person's position

If someone is asking for your advice, sometimes it's useful to imagine yourself being in that person's position. This is a good way to explain your advice, too.

- *If I were you, I would do more exercise.*

Remember to use an infinitive after 'would' and not 'to'. To make this negative, put 'not' after 'would'.

Make a suggestion

A suggestion or recommendation is another good way of giving advice that isn't too direct. You can use the words 'suggest' or 'recommend' as in the example below.

- *I would suggest* *doing more exercise.*
- *I would recommend* *doing more exercise.*

Use 'verb+ing' after 'suggest' or 'recommend' to explain your advice to the listener. To make these negative, put 'not' before your 'verb+ing'.

Advise in a stronger way

Sometimes, you need to make your advice stronger to let the listener know that it's really important. We can use the expression 'you had better...' to do this.

- *You had better* do more exercise before you start getting fat.
- *You had better not* drink so much beer or you will get fat.
- We use an infinitive after 'better' to explain our advice and add 'not' after 'better' to make the sentence negative.

RESPOND



Accept:

- Thanks, I'll do it.
- It sounds good.
- That sounds like a good idea.
- Thanks. It's a good suggestion.
- I think you're right.
- Why didn't I think of that?

Refuse:

- No, I'd rather not.
- I don't think so.
- I don't feel like it.
- No, I don't think it's a good idea.
- What a bad idea!

In doubt:

- Do you think so?
- I'll think about it.

- <https://englishlive.ef.com/blog/english-in-the-real-world/5-simple-ways-give-advice-english/>
- <https://basicenglishspeaking.com/making-suggestions-giving-advice-english/>
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