

Advice

What you should do is ...

In small groups, take turns to give each other advice for these situations using *should* and *ought to*, e.g.
A - *My car doesn't start.* B - *You should check the battery.* C - *You ought to get a new one.*

I'm bored. My husband/wife snores. My boss shouts at me. The roof is leaking. I'm going skiing. I feel very tired these days. I want to learn to speak Arabic. I'm losing a lot of weight. The neighbours are always arguing. I want to get fit.

- In small groups, agree the best way to continue these tips, and write your ideas down. Swap them with another group, and see if you agree with their advice.

To look after your heart you should (not) ...
To be happy in life you should (not) ...
To learn a language you should (not) ...
To drive safely you should (not) ...
To bring up children well you should (not) ...
To get on well with people you should (not) ...

- Work on your own. Write about a time you helped somebody by giving them some good advice. Then tell a partner about the problem and see if he/she would have given the same advice.

Emergencies

In pairs, agree what you should do if someone ...

is choking, has a fit, is burnt, has hypothermia, goes into labour, stops breathing,
has swallowed something poisonous, has been electrocuted, has been bitten by a snake

Agony aunts

Work in small groups. I'll give each group a problem. Write a letter to an agony aunt, giving details and asking for advice.

- Group A, you are a wife with husband problems.
- Group B, you are a husband with wife problems.
- Group C, you are parents with adolescent child problems.

Here are some possible factors to consider.

depression,	alcoholism,	unemployment,	drugs,	unfaithfulness,	mortgage,		
pregnancy,	nagging,	TV,	telephone,	money,	untidiness,	friends,	possessiveness

When you've finished your letter, pass it to another group. Write a reply to the letter you receive, giving advice about how to solve the problems. Then return the letter and your reply to the original group.

What do you think of the advice you have received? (Invite groups to read out the letters and replies.)

(Extension: Ask the students to work in groups of three - a husband, a wife and an adolescent child from the same family. Ask them to imagine that their family life is suffering because of the factors above. They are meeting to agree on some rules for making each other's lives more bearable.)

Help!

Imagine I have these problems. In groups of three, discuss each one and give me a piece of advice beginning *If I were you* I'll give a point to the group whose advice I think is best, e.g. T - *I get awful headaches.* S - *If I were you, I'd go to the doctor.*

I can never find my keys. My son is terribly shy. The garden is full of weeds. People don't listen to me. I can't stop hiccupping. I can 't find a job. My neighbours keep fighting. I'm overdrawn. My mother nags me. There's too much to do at work. I haven't got any friends. My parents are terribly strict. My life is boring. My mobile phone bill is huge.

Doctor, doctor!

In pairs, agree the best advice for someone with these symptoms.

I feel tired all the time. I've got a bad cough. I can't get to sleep. I've got a high temperature. I've got a sore throat.

My chest hurts.

In pairs, write a list of other symptoms, making sure you both have a copy. Swap partners with another pair. Tell each other your symptoms and give a diagnosis and some advice.

- Write some advice from a doctor to a patient leaving hospital using these words: *bed, TV, food, work, exercise, medicine, injections, a school*

In pairs, role-play a conversation between the doctor and patient, taking turns to be the doctor. After each piece of advice, try to find a way to avoid accepting it, e.g. D - *You should stay in bed for three days.* P - *But I have to go to work or the office will fall apart.* D - *Well it's very important that you get some rest.*

Proverbs

In pairs, discuss the meaning of these proverbs.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
Make hay while the sun shines.
You can't judge a book by its cover
To many cooks spoil the broth.
All that glitters is not gold.
Every cloud has a silver lining.
Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.
It's no use crying over spilt milk.

For each proverb, write a sentence expressing its meaning using *should / ought to*, e.g. *A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. You should be content with what you have and not always look for more.*

Tell the class some proverbs from your language.

Bad habits

In two groups, brainstorm a list of adjectives to describe someone who is unbearable to live with. Write a piece of advice next to each one, e.g. *Lazy - You should tidy up the kitchen more.*

Take turns to read your advice to the other group and see if they can guess the adjectives.

Past mistakes

- Work in pairs. I'm going to give each pair a different sentence describing a bad situation. Agree on a sequence of five mistakes that led up to the situation, and write it down. Swap your list with another pair. Read their sequence and discuss what the person should or shouldn't have done at each stage. Write a note of your advice and give it to the pair.

Kevin was given a five-year prison sentence.
The holiday was a complete disaster.
They got divorced as soon as they could.
Jack is living on the street now.
The house is a complete ruin now.
Sharon was given the sack.
John went on to become a street sweeper.
He had to take time off work due to nervous exhaustion.

- In groups, discuss these events, saying what people should have done to avoid them.

the Titanic, an important event in your country,	the colonisation of America,	World War II, a current situation in the news	Vietnam,
---	------------------------------	--	----------

Regrets

Work on your own and think about something you did that you wish you hadn't done or that you had done differently. Write a sentence about your regrets, e.g. *I should never have / I wish I hadn't jumped off that roof when I was playing with my friends.*

Work in small groups and take turns to read out your sentences and answer further questions, e.g. A - *Why did you jump off the roof?* B - *Oh, it was a dare.* A - *Did you break anything?* B - *Yes, I broke my ankle.*