



# Gentler Suggestions

Grammar > Intermediate 6



## Exercise 1 – Learning

We learned to say '**let's**' and '**should**' to make strong suggestions. The sentence patterns in this lesson are much less direct.

### 'Why don't we/you do this?'

When you say "**Why don't we do this?**", you are implying that "**this**" might be a good idea.

*Why don't you buy a new dress?*

*Why don't we get some coffee?*



## 'How about this/doing this/we do this?'

When you say "**How about doing this?**", you are asking for the listener's opinion.

*How do you feel about doing this?*

We use '**how about**' like this:

**'How about' + noun/gerund/clause?**

Keep in mind that gerunds (verbs in '**-ing**' form) function like nouns. In the sentences, "**I like soccer**" and "**I like playing soccer**", both "**soccer**" and "**playing soccer**" are basically **nouns**.

For example, if you are shopping for a dress, this is how the store clerk may recommend one:

*How about this dress?*

*How about trying on this dress?*



### 'Can/Could we do this?'/ 'We/you could do this.'

When we say "**Can we do this?**", we are asking if '**this**' is possible.

When we say "**Could we do this?**", we are asking if '**this**' would be possible.

Using '**could**' is therefore more polite than '**can**'.

*Can you lend me your car tomorrow?*

*Could you drive me to the hospital please?*

*You could tell your parents about your decision.*

### 'I think we should do this'/'I thought we could do this.'

To make your suggestions even more polite, you can say '**I think**' or '**I thought**'.

'**I thought**' is even more polite than '**I think**', because you are just expressing a thought, rather than saying you want to do something.

*I think we should take a walk after lunch.*

*I thought we could take a walk after lunch.*



## Exercise 2 – Multiple Choice

*Choose the correct answers to complete the sentences. There can be more than one correct answer.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ go to the beach?

- a) How about we
- b) Why don't we

2. \_\_\_\_\_ going to the beach?

- a) How about
- b) Why don't we

3. \_\_\_\_\_ buying a new phone?

- a) How about
- b) Why don't you

4. \_\_\_\_\_ watch a movie tonight.

- a) We could
- b) I thought we could



5. \_\_\_\_\_ watch a movie tonight?

- a) Why don't we
- b) I think we should

6. \_\_\_\_\_ we go to China?

- a) Why don't
- b) How about

7. \_\_\_\_\_ apply for this job. They need someone like you.

- a) I think you should
- b) You could

8. \_\_\_\_\_ go for a walk.

- a) We could
- b) Can we



## Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

*Use what you learned in class to create sentences with your tutor.*

**Example:** go to the park. → Why don't we go to the park?

### Content:

1. walk the dog.
2. go to the cafe nearby.
3. try a new restaurant.
4. go to a concert.
5. buy a new phone.
6. go to the beach.