

Proposing solutions

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL
Intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_3818X

LANGUAGE
English

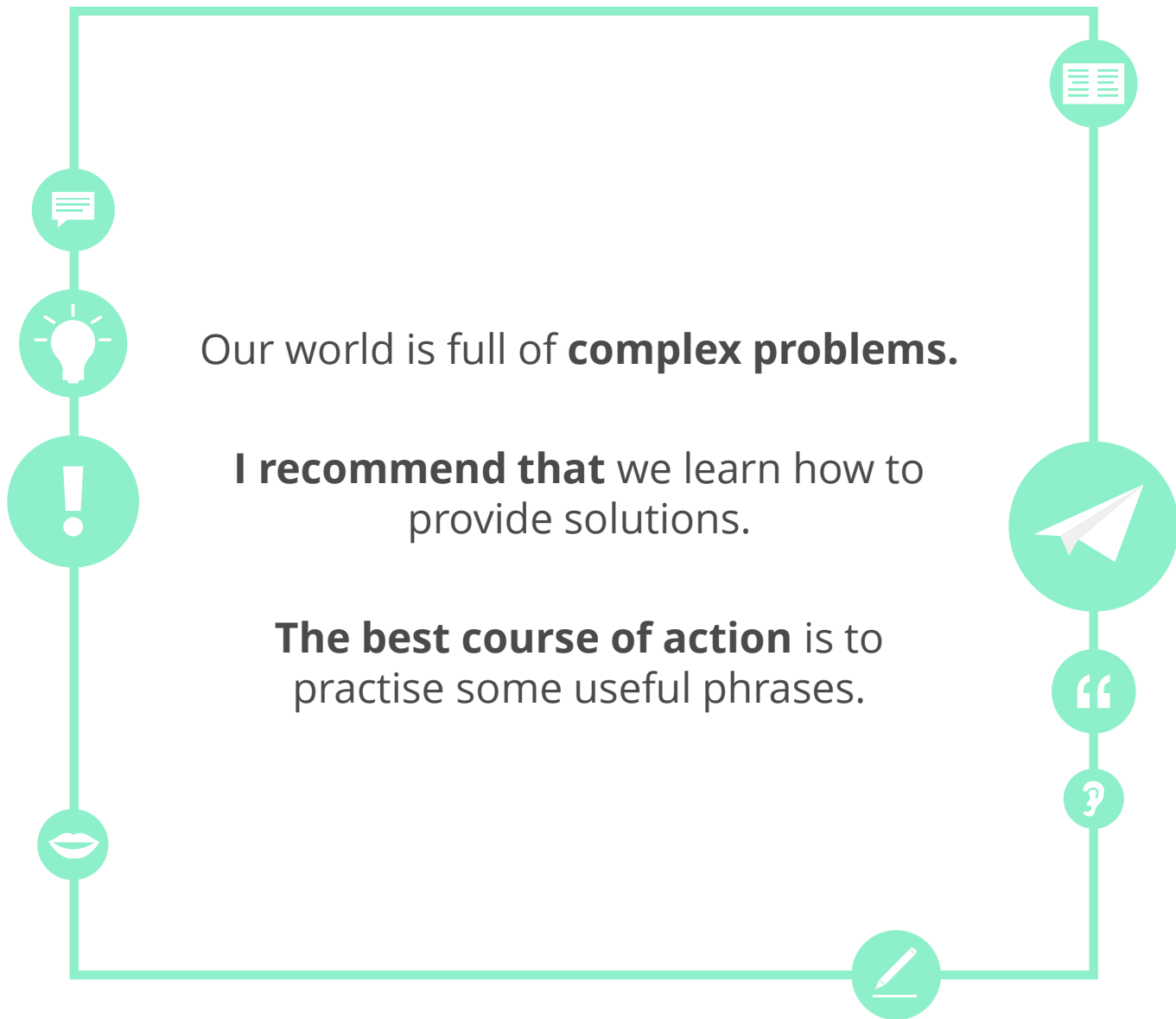




Goals

- Can identify and recall a range of structures to propose solutions to problems.
- Can describe why certain situations are difficult and give solutions accordingly.







Preview and warm-up

- In this lesson, you will practise **proposing solutions** to **difficult problems**.



I **propose** that we work together to find a solution that works for everyone.



Describe the problems in these photos. What are they and what causes them?

A



B



C



D





Describing problems

Arrange the problems below into different categories. Do some problems fit into more than one category?

1. You recently had a bad argument with your best friend

2. A new multinational corporation has moved to your city, causing rent prices to increase

3. The council is removing bike lanes in the city to make roads wider

4. Everyone in your office drinks coffee from disposable cups

5. The company you work for has a high staff turnover

6. Your flat is too small for you and your flatmates to work from home

environmental

socio-economic

professional

personal



Match the problems to their possible solutions

A

1. A new multinational corporation has moved to your city, causing rent prices to increase

2. Everyone in your office drinks coffee from disposable cups

3. Your flat is too small for you and your flatmates to work from home

4. The council is removing bike lanes in the city to make roads wider

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B

1. You could research coworking spaces to rent

2. You could call them and explain how you feel

3. You could start a petition opposing gentrification

4. You could review the induction process

5. You could arrange sustainability training

6. You could write a letter to your local political representative



Workplace problem?



Proposing solutions – subject + verb + *that*

- So far, we've looked at **different kinds of problems** and **possible solutions**.
- Now, let's look at phrases to help us **propose** these solutions to environmental problems.
- A simple structure to remember is **subject + verb + *that***
- Verbs to use include ***suggest, recommend, propose, advise*** and ***submit***.



I suggest that you take public transport to reduce traffic pollution.

I propose that we reduce our coffee cup waste.





Proposing solutions – subject + verb + *that*

- Here you have some more examples.



We recommend that everyone brings their own reusable cup to the office.

I advise that you write your name on your cup.



I submit that cycle lanes should be a priority in the future.



Proposing solutions – subject + *support* + noun phrase + *that*



- Some phrases require a **noun phrase** before *that*.
- Take a look at these examples:
 - *I support the idea that... We support a reduction in car usage...*



I support the idea that customers care about how green a company is.
We support the idea that moving the landfill is the best for the environment.



Add one of the phrases from the previous slides to propose a solution

1. You install bike racks in the office car park.



We recommend that you install bike racks in the office car park.

2. There should be a discount for customers who bring their own cups.



3. Parking your car should no longer be free for people who can travel by alternative means.



4. This company needs to take this issue seriously.



5. We object to the council's plans to reduce bike lanes.





Proposing solutions – phrases using *is* + to infinitive

- The phrases below use ***is* + to infinitive** to propose solutions to socio-economic problems.
- We use a **noun phrase** before ***is* + to infinitive**
- Nouns to use include ***idea, suggestion, solution*** and ***advice***.
- We also use **determiners** like ***a/an*** and ***the***, as well as **possessive pronouns**.



The best idea is to make sure the poorest in society have a voice.

My suggestion is to set a rent cap on flats in the city.





Proposing solutions – phrases using *is* + to infinitive

- Here you have some more examples.



The best course of action is to invest in skills and training.

One idea is to raise the minimum wage.



It is sensible to break the problem up into smaller parts.



Proposing solutions – phrases using *is* + infinitive and subject + verb + *that*

Match the words with the gaps in the sentences.

1. The right course of _____ is to be kind.
2. The _____ idea is to change employment law so that it is fair.
3. _____ solution is to improve educational opportunities for everyone.
4. We propose _____ school meals should be free for children from low-income families.
5. One option _____ to raise taxes.
6. I _____ that medicine should be made more affordable.
7. I _____ the idea that we need to do more.
8. My _____ is to stop people who exploit the system.

a. suggestion

b. support

c. one

d. recommend

e. that

f. best

g. action

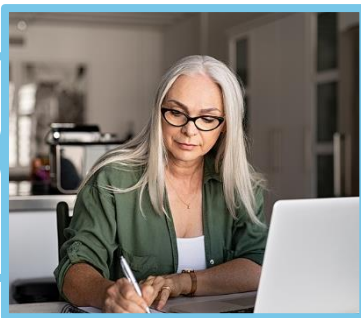
h. is



Proposing solutions

Look at each person's problem below. Propose a solution using the expressions you've learnt.

"My boss keeps making me work overtime!"



Tina



John

My kids are acting out of control all the time!"



Hinata

"My neighbours are so noisy!"



Manfred

"My poor English is holding me back at work!"



Proposing solutions – adverbial phrase + modal verb

- We can propose solutions to professional problems using an **adverbial phrase + modal verb**.
- Remember, modal verbs are words like *must, could, should, would* and *have to*.
- The **adverbial phrase** can be either a **dependent clause** (with a main verb) or a **fronted adverbial**, which does not have to contain a verb.



To address this issue, we must speak with HR first.

As a solution, you could move the meeting to next week.





Unscramble the sentences

A

the problem

be

must

creative

we

to solve



Creativity is crucial



Business travel

B

could

I

as

travel

an alternative

alone



Proposing solutions

Below are four problems you might have at work. Use the phrases from the lesson to propose some solutions.

Your team is complaining that they receive too many emails

The shared kitchen is often left untidy after lunch

You enjoy listening to the radio in the office but it distracts other people

A colleague tells you that he cannot work evening shifts because of childcare



Proposing solutions – questions offering solutions

- You can also suggest a solution by **asking a question**, especially if the problem is **sensitive** or **personal**.
- Verbs like **consider**, **think** and **try** are particularly useful.
- Adjectives like **aware** and **possible** are also effective.
- Questions in the **present perfect** offer solutions very well.



Have you considered going to the doctor?

Are you aware that career advice is available through the university?





Proposing solutions – questions offering solutions

- Here are some more examples:



You work very hard. **Have you thought** about taking a break?

Have you tried avoiding caffeine after lunch?



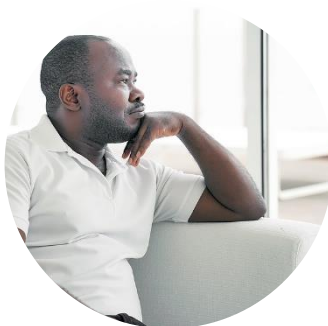
Is it **possible** that you might need to get more exercise?



Proposing solutions – questions offering solutions

Read the personal problems below. Ask questions to offer each person some solutions.

My husband and I work very different hours and we rarely see each other



I'm hosting a dinner party on Saturday but I'm having second thoughts

I'm trying to eat less meat but I am finding it very difficult

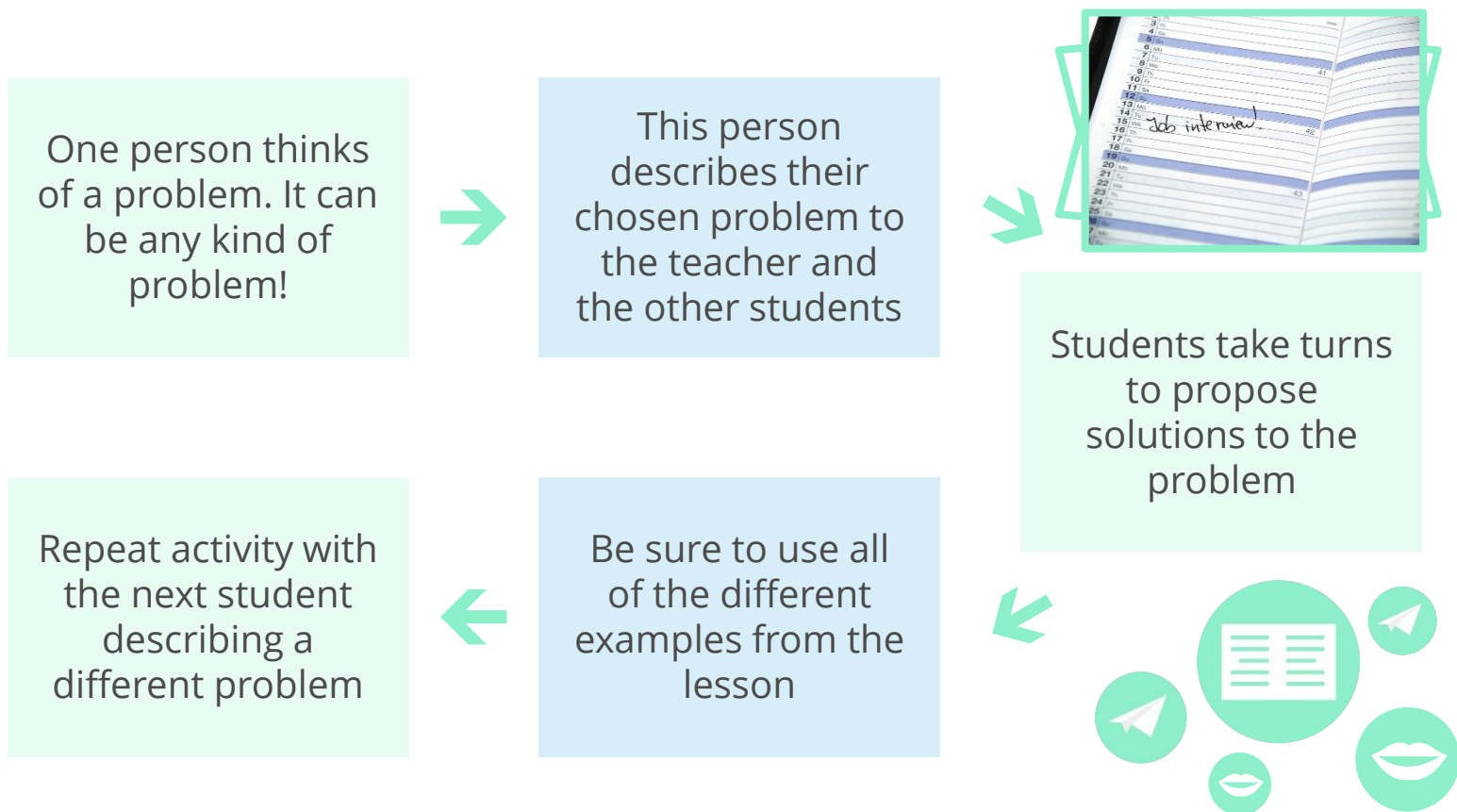


I recently lost my job and I am worried I won't be able to pay this month's rent



Proposing solutions

Think of problems and practise offering solutions to complete the activity below. If you don't know where to start, use the flow diagram to help you.





Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key

Activity p. 6:

1. 3, 4 2. 2 3. 5 4. 1, 6

Activity p. 7:

A1=B3, A2=B5, A3=B1, A4=B6, A5=B2, A6=B4

Activity p. 11 – suggested answers:

2. **I propose that** there should be a discount for customers who bring their own cups.

3. **We support the idea that** parking your car should no longer be free for people who can travel by alternative means.

4. **I suggest that** the company needs to take this seriously.

5. **I advise that** we object to the council's plans to reduce bike lanes.

Activity p. 14:

1. g; 2. f; 3. c; 4. e; 5. h; 6. d; 7. b; 8. a

Activity p. 17:

A: To solve the solution, we must be creative.

B: As an alternative, I could travel alone.





Proposing solutions in writing

You receive this email from a colleague. Read the email and use the next slide to write a reply.

	-	□	×
To: sf2@workmail.com			
Problem with next week's schedule			
<p>Hello,</p> <p>I think we might have a problem next week. Both clients want to meet in the morning. Andrew says he is free in the afternoon but Samantha can only do the morning, unless we have the meeting as a conference call: then she is free all day. Andrew is also happy to do the call online. My flight from Oslo won't arrive until 7am and I won't be at the office until 9am at the earliest. It could be a bit tight for the first meeting at 10:30am. What do you think?</p> <p>Thanks, Nadia</p>			



Proposing solutions in writing

Write a reply to Nadia's email. Use the phrases in the boxes below to offer at least 4 different solutions.

I suggest that...

Are you aware...?

The best course of action is...

My suggestion is...

As a solution, you could...

Have you considered...?



Dear Nadia,





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