

Toolbox: Useful phrases for role plays and conversations (advice, suggestions, opinions)

Asking for advice / suggestions

What do you think I should/could ...?
What do you suppose would be the best way to ...?
Do you think it would be a good idea to ...

Giving advice

If I were you, I'd ...
Why don't you ...?
You really ought to ...
I think you should ...
If you want my advice, I think ...
Don't you think it would be better to ...?
I think it might not be a bad idea if you ...

Accepting advice:

I suppose you're right. I really should ...
It probably *would* be better if ...
All right. I'll try to ...
That sounds like a good idea.

Rejecting advice:

No, I couldn't do that.
No, I just don't feel like ... (*+ verb with -ing*)
I don't think it'll be necessary/possible to ...
That's simply impossible.
That's out of the question.

Making suggestions:

What about ...? / How about ...?
Would you like ...?
What would you say to ...?
Why don't we/you ...?
I think we should ...
Let's ...

Positive reactions to suggestions:

All right./ Okay.
That's a good / a great/ an excellent idea.
I'd love to ...
That sounds great / perfect / like fun.
(*higher pitch indicates enthusiasm*)

Negative reactions to suggestions:

No, I don't think so. Thank you.
I'm sorry, but I can't.
I'm afraid I can't.
(Maybe) some other time.
I'd love to, but ...

Stronger ways of turning down suggestions:

I wouldn't think of it.
That's out of the question.
Definitely not. / *AmE*: No way.

Giving your opinion:

In my opinion ...
I think/believe ...
If you ask me ...
It seems to me that ...

Asking for someone else's opinion:

What do you think (about that)?
How do you feel about ...?
What would you say to ...?

Agreeing (partly):

Exactly.
I agree with you completely.
I think you're right (– up to a point).
I admit that ... (but ...)
I see what you mean (but...)
That's a good point (but ...)

Disagreeing:

Oh, come on.
That can't be right.
I think you're wrong there.
I'm not sure you're right there.
I'm afraid I don't agree.

Disagreeing and giving counterarguments:

But don't forget ...
You've got to admit that ...
I think it's wrong to say ... because ...
You might think differently if ...
Yes, but on the other hand ...

Persuading

You'll have to agree/admit that ...
It's obvious that ...
It goes without saying that ...

Expressing certainty, uncertainty or doubt:

I'm convinced/sure that ...
There's no doubt about it.
Maybe/Perhaps ...
I'm not so sure whether...
I doubt that ...
Do you really think so? / think that ...?