

12 Form, Meaning and Function

Suggestions

Use *should* and *shouldn't* to ask for and give suggestions.

A: What **should** we do tonight?

B: I don't know, but we **shouldn't** stay home.

A: **Should** I buy this racing bike?

B: No, you **should** buy the mountain bike.

Use *can* and *could* to give possible suggestions.

A: What should I cook for dinner?

B: You **could** make spaghetti.

A: Let's go to the park this afternoon.

B: That's a good idea. We **can** have a picnic.

Note: *Can* and *can't* are also used for ability or inability.

A: **Can** you go out tonight?

B: Sorry, I **can't**. I have to study.

Use *Why don't...?* and *Let's* to give suggestions.

A: **Why don't** we order a pizza?

B: No. **Let's** eat out instead.

A: **Let's** go to the park.

B: OK. **Why don't** we take our bikes?

To accept suggestions, we say: *OK; That's a good idea; Sure; All right; or That sounds good.*

To politely refuse suggestions, we say: *Sorry, I can't; Let's... instead.*

A. Fill in each blank with a suitable word. Then practice the conversation with a partner.

Fahd: (1) _____ go get some pizza and hang out by the beach.

Imad: Sorry, I (2) _____. I have to clean my room and start packing for college.

Fahd: That's right. You're leaving next week, aren't you? (3) _____ don't you let me help you? Then we (4) _____ go out later.

Imad: Thanks. That (5) _____ good... What (6) _____ I do with all my stuff? I (7) _____ take it with me because my room at the college is really small.

Fahd: Well, you (8) _____ leave it here at your parents' house.

Imad: No, I (9) _____. My parents want to give the room to my brother, so I have to move all my things out.

Fahd: Then, why (10) _____ you have a garage sale?

Imad: Hmm... That's a good (11) _____. I (12) _____ get rid of some old things that I don't use anymore.

Fahd: And you (13) _____ make a bit of money, too!

Imad: True. I (14) _____ use the money to buy books. What day (15) _____ I have it?

Fahd: (16) _____ don't you have it on Saturday?

Imad: All right. (17) _____ start by putting aside the things I don't want. Pass me that skateboard and those binoculars.

Fahd: No, you (18) _____ sell those! You (19) _____ keep them.

Imad: Do you want them? Why (20) _____ you come to my garage sale on Saturday?



B. Work in a group of four. Plan a school trip. Think about: where your class should go, when you should go, how you should get there, and what activities you should do. Use language for giving, accepting, and refusing suggestions.

A: Why don't we go to the museum?

B: Museums are boring. Let's go to the zoo instead.

C: Yes. The zoo sounds good.

D: I agree. I think we should visit the zoo.