

Giving Advice: Situations



Giving Advice	Example
should	You should stay home tonight, you need to recover.
ought to	You ought to relax, you have been too stressed lately.
had better	You had better find your phone, otherwise we won't be able to contact you.
If I were you,	If I were you, I wouldn't go late to bed, you look exhausted!

Notice that 'had better' can imply a stronger sense of urgency or warning!

Activity 1

Match each situation with the appropriate advice.

Situation	Answer	Advice
1. Your friend loses his wallet.		A. You had better talk to them, otherwise they will never stop.
2. Someone is complaining about not finding a job.		B. If I were you, I would get a bike and cycle around town.
3. Your friend spend too much time on public transport.		C. You ought to report the lost wallet to the police.
4. A colleague can't relax at home because her neighbours are very noisy.		D. You should be patient and apply for at least a job position per day.
5. Someone is complaining about not having enough time for herself.		E. You should consider selling your old clothes.
6. Your friend spends too much money on clothes.		F. If I were you, I would ask for help with some tasks.



Activity 2

There are some sentences that contain some mistakes. Determine whether they are correct or wrong and correct the mistakes when necessary.

1. If I was you, I would try to disconnect and go for a walk.

2. You shouldn't take some time off, you have been working non-stop.

3. You ought work harder, your boss is complaining about your performance.

4. You had better complete this form before Friday, it's very important.

5. If I were you, I try to speak to him. He seems upset!

6. You should do more exercise, it will make you feel better.

Activity 3

Complete the sentences to provide some advice to the given situations.

1. A colleague is having a complicated situation with her boss.

You **should** _____.

2. A friend isn't feeling motivated about his job.

If I were you, _____.

3. A friend wants to buy a new car but the one she likes is too expensive for her.

You **had better** _____.

4. A colleague complains about not having enough time with her partner.

You **ought to** _____.

5. A relative tells you that he wants to have a healthier diet.

You **should** _____.



Activity 4

Read the following conversations and fill in the gaps with an appropriate piece of advice.

Conversation 1

Speaker A: I've been feeling a little bit under the weather lately. Do you think I should take a day off tomorrow?

Speaker B: _____.

Conversation 2

Speaker A: I need to improve my English for my job but I don't have much time to attend lessons. What would you do if you were me?

Speaker B: _____.

Conversation 3

Speaker A: I need to quit smoking but I don't know how to do it! Any recommendations?

Speaker B: _____.

Conversation 4

Speaker A: I have an important appointment at 4:00 p.m. but I need to be at the office by 4:45 p.m. I'm worried that I won't make it on time and I'm not sure what is best to do.

Speaker B: _____.