Grammar Lesson Plan: Making Suggestions

- **Level:** Intermediate
- **Class Goal:** Understand the different usages of the “Making Suggestions” grammar point.
- **Personal Goal:** Introduce myself to the structure required for teaching a grammar lesson, reinforce vocabulary presentation skills, provide a free practice activity that stimulates discussion.
- **Theme:** Planning Activities and Making Suggestions
- **Grammar Point:** (“Shall” will be eliminated from the actual grammar point. I make no reference to “shall” in my text. At the end of my grammar point, I will add, “What is another way we can make a polite, friendly suggestion?” If students don’t offer the answer, I will write it and explain that this form is *rare* used, and usually only in more formal situations.

| 9-10 Making Suggestions: Let’s, Why Don’t, Shall I We |
|---|---|
| (a) Let’s go to a movie. | Let’s = let us. Let’s is followed by the simple form of a verb. Negative form: let’s + not + simple verb The meaning of let’s: “I have a suggestion for us.” |
| (b) Let’s not go to a movie. Let’s stay home instead. | |
| (c) Why don’t we go to a movie? | Why don’t is used primarily in spoken English to make a friendly suggestion. In (c): Why don’t we go = let’s go. |
| (d) Why don’t you come around seven? | In (d): I suggest that you come around seven. |
| (e) Why don’t I give Mary a call? | In (e): Should I give Mary a call? Do you agree with my suggestion? |
| (f) Shall I open the window? Is that okay with you? | When shall is used with I or we in a question, the speaker is usually making a suggestion and asking another person if s/he agrees with this suggestion. This use of shall is relatively formal and infrequent. Sometimes “shall we?” is used as a tag question after let’s, as in (h). More informally, “okay?” is used as a tag question, as in (i). |
| (g) Shall we leave at two? Is that okay? | |
| (h) Let’s go, shall we? | |
| (i) Let’s go, okay? | |

- **Warmer:** Ask students about last weekend, get to where we are caught up to today, and get them thinking about the upcoming weekend.

1. Vocabulary Presentation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
<th>Method/Cue</th>
<th>Comprehension Check</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eccentric</td>
<td>Description of visual</td>
<td>Referring to the picture: “What makes this person eccentric?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An intersection</td>
<td>Illustration, verbal prompting</td>
<td>What street signs are found at an intersection?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[to be] Broke</td>
<td>Verbal prompting, modeling</td>
<td>What do you do when you’re broke?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An audience</td>
<td>Verbal prompting</td>
<td>When are you a member of an audience?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Prediction
Picture of a couple at a café, introduce the story. *See page 3 for text*
3. Grammar Presentation
Start with function of the grammar point, illustrating different usages by drawing examples from the text. The examples will be written on a piece of paper prior to the start of class.

My three cue statements:
- Why don’t we go to the concert at Symphony Hall on Sunday? (Line 5/6)
- Let’s go to “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.” (Line 10)
- Let’s not go to “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.” (Line 12)

What is common in these sentences?
Next, using the board, I will go over the form we use when asking questions with these modals:
Let’s + base form (subject = “us” from let’s)
Let’s not + base form (subject = “us” from let’s)
Why don’t + subject + base form

Important: What are the possibilities for “subjects” with these modals?
- Let’s = Let us. Us is the only subject we use.
- “Why don’t” can have:
  - Why don’t we
  - Why don’t you
  - Why don’t I
  - Why don’t they

4. Concept Check
A couple is planning a vacation. What might they ask each other?

5a. Controlled Practice #1 (See Page 4)
Correct the sentences.

5b. Controlled Practice #2 (See Page 5)
Paired work: Step 1: Cross out all the statements that are commands and not suggestions.
           Step 2: Fill in the text with the remaining suggestions.

6a. Free Practice #1
Pass out pictures with activities. Have students use those to “make suggestions” for the weekend.

6b. Free Practice #2 (See Page 6)
Statement Prompts.

7. Wrap-Up
What do you suggest I do this weekend?

8. Extension
How many words can you make with the letters

LETS
WHYD
ONTS
HALL
Two friends are at a café making plans for the weekend:

John: Hi Mary! What are you doing this weekend?
Mary: I’m not sure. What would you like to do?
John: Why don’t we go to the concert at Symphony Hall on Sunday?
Mary: I’m busy on Sunday. Let’s do something on Saturday instead.
John: Why don’t we go to a movie?
Mary: That sounds better. Let’s go to the Rocky Horror Picture Show. I haven’t seen that in a long time.
John: Let’s not go to the Rocky Horror Picture Show. I don’t really like that movie, and there are always so many eccentric people in the audience. I would rather go to see Beauty and the Beast.
Mary: Okay. Where is the movie showing?
John: It’s showing at the Old-Time Movies theater downtown. It’s at the intersection of 7th Street and Brown Avenue.
Mary: Why don’t we meet for dinner first? I heard there is a fantastic French restaurant near there.
John: I don’t think we should go out for French food. I’m sort of broke, and French food is always expensive. Let’s get some Chinese food instead. That’s a lot cheaper.
Mary: I guess so, but the last time I had Chinese food I had a stomachache. The food is too spicy, and I have a really hard time eating with chopsticks. Why don’t we just get a hamburger?
John: Perhaps you are right. Now that I think of it, the movie starts very early. It might be too early in the evening to have dinner before the movie.
Mary: Well, let’s have dinner after the movie then. We can go to the pub on 9th Street. They have good food there. What do you think?
John: I think that is a fantastic idea! Let’s do it!
**Controlled Practice #1**

*Jane is having trouble making suggestions. Most of them have mistakes. Two of them are right. Correct the ones that are wrong.*

1. Let’s I go to the movie with you.

2. Let’s visit the art museum this weekend.

3. Let’s not camping at this park

4. Let us going to dinner tonight.

5. Why don’t you meet me at the library to study?

6. Why do not we go to the concert?

7. Why don’t us take a vacation?
Controlled Practice #2

Cross out the terms that are not suggestions. Circle the terms that are suggestions.

1. You have to
2. Let’s not
3. We must
4. Let’s
5. We must not
6. You can’t
7. Why don’t we
8. Why don’t I
9. We have to

Use the circled terms to complete the following conversation:

Jeff: Hi Sue. I was wondering if you can help me with my homework tomorrow.

Sue: Sure Jeff. ________________ meet at Anna’s bakery at 9:00 pm?

Jeff: Oh, no. ________________ meet so late. I have to get up early the next day.

Sue: Okay. If we can’t meet at nine, ________________ try to get together in the morning.

Jeff: But I have an English class in the morning.

Sue: Well, it seems like we aren’t going to be able to meet at all! ________________

just send you the answers to the homework problems?

Jeff: But that would be cheating!
**Free Practice #1** (See PDF file titled “Ananda Mahto - ESL Grammar Lesson Plan - Advanced - Making Suggestions - FP 1 - Activities.pdf”)

**Free Practice #2** (Cut out and distribute the following scenarios. Have students talk to each other about what they should do now.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I just won the lottery!</th>
<th>I got a one month vacation!</th>
<th>I just bought a new car!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My favorite musician is going to perform tonight!</td>
<td>It’s my birthday today!</td>
<td>Too bad it’s raining today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The bus is late and I need to get there quickly!</td>
<td>I wish I could get a cup of coffee right now.</td>
<td>I have a big exam next week.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Illustrations used in this lesson plan: