

Giving Advice & Recommendations- Future Time Expressions Practice

Choose one of the future times below and explain a situation related to it that needs advice/ recommendations, using the phrases and/ or topics below to help if you like. Listen to your partner's advice/ recommendations and respond positively or negatively depending on what you think about what they say.

Useful language for explaining the situations

I feel...
(My... has told me that) I have to...
I need to...
I want to achieve...
I want to...
I'd like to...
I'm planning to...
I've been set a target of...
My (main) ambition/ goal is to...
My boss/ section/ company/ industry will probably...
My New Year resolution is to...
The deadline for... is...
There is a...

Suggested topics

Career
Crime
Food and drink
Free time/ Hobbies
Giving things up
Health
Hospitality/ Socialising
Travel
Trying something new

Suggested times

At... o'clock (in the morning/ in the afternoon/ in the evening/ at night) (today/ on... day/ on the ...th of...)
By... o'clock (today/ on... day/ on the ...th of...)
Later (today)
This evening
Tonight
By the close of business (tonight/ on Friday)
Tomorrow (morning/ afternoon/ evening/ night)
The day after tomorrow
On Monday/ Tuesday/ ...day
On the first/ second/ third/ fourth/..th (of...)
By ...day

In two days/ three days/ ... days
Within two days/ three days/ ... days
Later this week/ this month/ this year
At the end of this week/ this month/ this year
At the beginning of...
In the middle of...
By the end of this week/ this month/ this year
Next week/ month/ year
The week after next/ The month after next/ The year after next
In... weeks/ months/ years
Within ... weeks/ months/ years
In January/ February/...
In (the year) 2020/ 20...
In the 2020s/ the 2030s/ the 20...s
Before I retire/ Before...
After I retire/ After...
In the near future
In the distant future
Someday/ Sometime/ One day

Useful questions for asking for advice/ recommendations

- Can you suggest anything?
- Do you have any ideas?
- Do you have any recommendations?
- Do you know any suitable...?
- What do you recommend?
- What do you think I should do?
- What would you do (in my place/ in that situation/ if you were in my shoes)?

Useful phrases for responding to advice/ suggestions

- Of course. I can't believe I didn't think of that myself.
- That's a great idea. I'll definitely do that./ That's an excellent suggestion. I'll do exactly what you said.
- That seems like a good idea. I'll give it a try.
- You are probably right. I'll give it a go.
- That's not a bad idea. I'll try my best to do that.
- Hmm. That might be worth thinking about.
- That might work. I'll consider it.
- I'm not so sure that's a good idea (because...)/ I'm not sure that would work (in this case) (because...) Can you suggest anything else?
- Are you sure (that's a good idea)? Don't you think that...?
- Do you really think so? I would have thought that...
- Actually, ... already. (Do you have any other ideas?)

*Without looking above, brainstorm language for asking for and responding to suggestions.
Many more phrases not above are also possible.*

*Without looking above, brainstorm phrases that match the grammar in each column below.
Many more expressions not above are also possible.*

At	On	In	no preposition

Put these expressions into the columns above.

... o'clock
2050
February
Friday
January
later (today)
Monday
next week
next year
night
one day/ someday/ sometime
the 2020s
the afternoon
the beginning of this month
the day after tomorrow
the distant future
the end of this week
the evening
the first of January
the middle of February
the morning
the near future
the second
the week after next
the year 2020
this evening
three weeks
today
tomorrow
tomorrow morning
tonight
two days

Try to work out what kind of preposition each of these kinds of expressions take, and use that to help check your answers:

- (clock) times
- other points in time such as beginnings
- days and dates
- longer periods of time such as months and years
- "night"
- expressions with "this", "next" and "last", and similar expressions like "today"
- a certain time after now/ a length of time

Check your answers on the first two pages, then use that to check these categories.