TRANSCRIPT · EPISODE 255

I Suggest Going | Fix It in Five

English learning resource · EN

Full episode script · English

109 lines

Study task: Listen again and notice the expressions you studied.

A friend asks you, "Where should we go this weekend?"

You want to give a good idea, and you want to say it correctly.

What do you say?

Welcome to Fix It in Five.

I'm Julia.

And I'm Martin.

Today we fix one useful verb: suggest.

Let's hear it in a short conversation first.

Julia, we have a free Saturday.

Any ideas?

I suggest going to the beach.

Good idea.

But the weather looks cloudy.

Then I suggest that we take umbrellas.

Or I suggest a museum.

The museum sounds better.

Thank you for the suggestions.

Did you notice the three patterns?

First pattern: suggest plus the -ing form.

"I suggest going to the beach."

Second pattern: suggest plus a that clause.

"I suggest that we take umbrellas."

Third pattern: suggest plus a noun.

"I suggest a museum."

Let's look at each pattern slowly.

Pattern one: suggest plus -ing.

We put the action after suggest, and the action ends in -ing.

"She suggested leaving early."

"They suggest taking the train."

This pattern is very natural, and it is often the simplest choice.

Pattern two: suggest plus that.

After the word that, we have a person and an action.

"He suggested that we meet at seven."

In everyday English, we can also leave out that.

"He suggested we meet at seven."

Pattern three: suggest plus a noun.

"I suggest the soup."

"She suggested a different hotel."

So we have three good tools.

Going.

That we go.

A place.

There is one more detail for the that pattern.

Sometimes people add should: "I suggest that we should leave now."

It is correct, but it is optional.

Many speakers simply say, "I suggest we leave now."

Let's see the verb at work.

Imagine a short conversation in an office.

We are late with the report.

What do you suggest?

I suggest asking the manager for one more day.

Or I suggest that we divide the work.

That is a good plan.

I suggest starting now.

Notice how natural it sounds.

We give a clear idea, and we do not sound too strong.

That is the real value of suggest.

It is polite, and it leaves space for the other person to answer.

Now, the common mistake.

Many learners say, "I suggest to go to the beach."

The problem is the pattern after suggest.

With this meaning, the natural choices are the -ing form, a that clause, or a noun.

So we say, "I suggest going."

Or, "I suggest that we go."

Or, "I suggest the beach."

Notice that the word to can still appear near suggest in other ways.

For example, "She suggested a good restaurant to me."

Here, to me is part of a different idea.

It tells us who received the suggestion.

So the lesson is not that to never appears.

The lesson is that suggest does not take to plus a verb for this meaning.

Let's practise.

I will give you a sentence, and you choose the best way to complete it.

Number one: "I suggest ... earlier tomorrow."

Is it, A, to leave, or B, leaving?

The answer is B, leaving.

"I suggest leaving earlier tomorrow."

Number two: "She suggested ... we ask the teacher."

Is it, A, that, or B, to?

The answer is A, that.

"She suggested that we ask the teacher."

Number three: "What do you suggest for dinner?"

Which noun can answer it?

Many answers work.

For example, "I suggest the pasta."

Number four: "They suggested ... the meeting to Friday."

Is it, A, moving, or B, to move?

The answer is A, moving.

"They suggested moving the meeting to Friday."

Number five: make your own sentence about a weekend plan, using suggest and the -ing form.

For example, "I suggest walking in the park on Sunday."

Now a quick speaking challenge.

Your friend says, "I am hungry, and it is already two o'clock."

Give a suggestion with suggest plus the -ing form.

For example, "I suggest having lunch now."

Again, your friend says, "My neighbours are very noisy."

Give a suggestion with suggest plus that.

For example, "I suggest that you talk to them."

Let's repeat the model sentences.

I suggest going.

I suggest that we go.

I suggest the beach.

Say them aloud, and then change the place or the day.

Small changes help you remember the pattern.

On our website, you can choose from seven listening speeds.

Choose a comfortable pace and repeat the sentences as you listen.

You can find it on yourenglishtoolbox.com, and the link is in the description.

Thanks for listening.

See you next time.