Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 255

I Suggest Going | Fix It in Five

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

8 learning entries

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

1

suggest

DEF

to offer an idea or plan for someone to consider

to put forward a possible choice, such as a place, a thing or an action

Suggest has three common patterns: suggest + -ing (I suggest leaving), suggest + a that clause (I suggest that we leave, or I suggest we leave) and suggest + a noun (I suggest the soup). We do not use suggest + to + verb for this meaning, so 'I suggest to leave' is a mistake. The that clause can also contain should (I suggest that we should leave), but should is optional. A suggestion is softer than an order.

I suggest taking a taxi, because the bus is late.

She suggested that we meet at seven.

2

suggestion

DEF

an idea or plan that you offer for someone to consider

Suggestion is the noun from suggest. It is countable: a suggestion, two suggestions. We say make a suggestion or have a suggestion, and we ask 'Any suggestions?'. A phrase like 'My suggestion is to wait' is fine, because there the noun is followed by is, not by the verb suggest.

Do you have any suggestions for dinner?

Thank you for the suggestion; I will think about it.

3

pattern

DEF

a regular, repeated way in which something is done or arranged

in grammar, a set of words that regularly appear together in the same structure

In language learning, a pattern is a structure you can reuse by changing some words, such as 'suggest + -ing'. Learning patterns is more useful than learning single words. In general English, pattern can also mean a design of repeated shapes or colours.

This sentence pattern is easy to use in many situations.

Learn the pattern, and then change the words.

4

polite

DEF

having good manners and showing respect for other people

Polite describes words and behaviour that respect others. The opposite is impolite or rude. The adverb is politely, and the noun is politeness. We say 'It is polite to ...' or 'a polite request'.

It is polite to say thank you.

He gave a polite answer, even though he was tired.

5

optional

DEF

available to choose, but not required or compulsory

Optional means you may choose to do it or not. The opposite is compulsory, required or mandatory. We often say 'an optional extra' or 'optional, not required'. The noun is option.

Breakfast is optional, so you can skip it.

Bringing a gift is optional, but people like it.

6

divide

DEF

to separate something into parts

to share something between people or groups

Divide is often followed by into (divide the cake into eight pieces) or between/among (divide the work between us). In maths, divide 10 by 2 gives 5. The noun is division.

Let's divide the cake into eight pieces.

We divided the housework between us.

7

mistake

DEF

something that is wrong, such as an action, an answer or an opinion

Use make a mistake, not 'do a mistake'. We also say by mistake (without meaning to) and a common mistake. A mistake is a normal part of learning. It is close to error, but mistake is more common in everyday speech.

Making a mistake is a normal part of learning.

There is a mistake in the second line.

8

plan

DEF

a set of ideas or steps for doing something in the future

Plan is countable: a plan, some plans. We say make a plan, have a plan and have plans for the weekend. It is also a verb: plan a trip, plan to leave. A good plan is clear and realistic.

We have a plan for the weekend.

Do you have any plans for tonight?