Collaborative task/Prompt

Different types of prompts:

* I have a friend who doesn’t want her children to use tablets or mobile phones but I think it is a good idea, how can I convince her? - Already suggests that you should agree.
* I have a friend who hates his job; I am very worried about him? Can you suggest some advice I could give him? (Open opinion)
* I’m thinking about taking up a new hobby but I don’t have much free time, what do you think would be a good idea?(Personal, pay interest)
* My friend hates languages, but she really needs to practice her English to find a job? What new ideas can I use to help her? (Open)
* My neighbour is a single mum and she wants to make new friends but she doesn’t have time alone. I would like to help her but I’m not sure how. (Personal, ask about both parties)
* My cousin wants to study abroad but her boyfriend has told her that if she leaves he will end the relationship. What do you think about this and what would you do in this situation? (OPEN)

Tips

1. Find out who the person is. (9 times out of 10 this task involves a person)

The best advice is to ask enough questions to be able to picture the person in your head.

1. If you haven’t heard HE or SHE clearly ask again before you start.

Ask:

Age: How old is she or he?

Background: Who does he or she live with? Where is the person from?

Time: - How long has this issue/problem been happening for? When did this start?

* If work related: What timetable does he or she have?
* Ask about hobbies; ask if they have children etc.

- Ask what measures have already been taken, don’t presume that something hasn’t already been done.

1. How to ask…

Don’t be too direct…. Can I ask…?

Would you mind telling me…?

Could I just ask…?

1. Take a pause if necessary, try saying….. Let me think about that.
2. Be honest… I’m not sure but maybe…

Why don’t you suggest or try….

1. If we don’t understand:

Can you repeat please?

Sorry, I didn’t quite get that

Excuse me, could you say it again?

1. Stay on the story line, if you have information that isn’t directly related, this is good, as part of the exam time will have been used, **but don’t ask questions that aren’t related**.

1. I want a big fancy wedding with all my family and friends, but my fiancé doesn’t agree!

2. My mother says that I should look for work near my village, but there aren’t many jobs for scientists in my area.

3. I really want to get a dog, but my family thinks it’s a bad idea!

4. I want to go abroad to study but my boyfriend/girlfriend doesn’t want me to go!

5. I hate my job, it’s making me miserable, do you think I should quit?

6. Everyone says I have to learn English to get a good job, but I hate learning languages! Do you think I really need to learn another language?

1. My boyfriend/girlfriend says I should try to lose weight, but I don’t think I need to, what should I do?

8. My brother wants to go into business with his friends, but I’m not sure it’s a good idea.

9. I think my boyfriend/ girlfriend is lying to me about having to do extra shifts at work, but I don’t know what to do.

10. I think I saw one of my colleagues take some money from the till at work and I don’t know if I should tell my boss.