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Lesson 2

Suggesting a venue for celebrating one's company's anniversary

Teacher's booklet

Phase 1: Guided noticing (approx. 30 min)

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Exercise 1. Warm-up and predicting

Note: The terminology should be removed in the student's version of the booklet.

Can you think of some real-life situations in which people may say something like this:

Note: Here teachers can provide more than 3 examples (any examples from the shortlist).

- I highly recommend it

  Possible situation (s): _____

- Just a suggestion

  Possible situation (s): _____

- I think everyone would enjoy it

  Possible situation (s): _____

Exercise 2. Exploration through written contextualized input

Background: 10 native speakers of English were asked to respond to the following scenario:

The company you are working for is celebrating its 10th anniversary next month. You are discussing potential venues (places) for celebration with colleagues over lunch. There is a new restaurant downtown that you've recently been to and the food there is very good, so you would like to suggest this place to your colleagues.

What would you say to make a suggestion?

Read their responses below and try to <u>notice</u> and <u>underline</u> any expressions/word combinations that were similar to those we discussed at the beginning of today's lesson (e.g. *We should consider*). The first response has been done for you.

1. Have you been to […]? I went last week, and it was amazing. ***We should consider*** it for the celebration**.**

2. I went to this great restaurant recently and I highly recommend it for our anniversary party. I think it would be perfect.

3. How about 'Fauna'? The food is great and it's a huge venue.

4. Could I suggest (restaurant name)? I was there last month, and it seemed large and well-equipped enough to handle a group reservation. And the food was really good!

5. Actually, I went to this place downtown called [restaurant name] and it was really good. Maybe we could try there?

6. I went to X restaurant last week and it was really good, just a suggestion.

7. Has anyone been to X? I was there last weekend and the food was amazing. Plus, it looked like they had a place in the back for larger parties...so that might be an option.

8. I would recommend this restaurant. I went last week, and it was very good. I really enjoyed it.

9. Well, I've discovered a really nice restaurant in the centre of the city: _____. The food is great, and I think everyone would enjoy it.

10. Let's try that new place downtown – Mad Radish! It's cash only, and all salads although there are vegan and non-vegan options. It's been getting great reviews from my friends.

Phase 2: Deep cognitive engagement and stimulating retention (approx. 60 min)

Exercise 1. Form-comparison and explicit metapragmatic explanation

Instructions: Now compare the expressions you've underlined in Exercise 1 with the list provided in your handout. Were you able to notice most of them?

Such expressions are also called *'pragmatic formulas'*. These are fixed or semi-fixed multi-word combinations *frequently used* by the native/highly proficient speakers of the language for *specific communicative purposes.* Such expressions can be very beneficial for developing *fluency* and *accuracy* in a second language. The knowledge of these expressions can also help you improve your *pragmatic competence* (ability to use your second language in a contextually appropriate way in order to be properly understood by the native/highly proficient speakers of the language). Such expressions can help you *sound more natural* in your second language, and, as a result, you are more likely to be accepted into the *'inner social circle'* of the second language community.

Now let's move on to Exercises 2 and 3. These exercises were designed to help you better memorize these formulas and understand how they are used in context (in this lesson, *Suggesting a venue for celebrating one's company's anniversary*).

Target pragmatic formulas:

1. We should consider ____+ [restaurant name]

2. I highly recommend it

3. How about ____+ [restaurant name]?

4. Could I suggest ____+ [restaurant name]?

5. Maybe we could ____+ [any meaningful completion of the phrase]

6. Just a suggestion

7. That might be an option

8. I would recommend ____ + [any meaningful completion of the phrase]

9. I think everyone would enjoy it

10. Let's try _____+ [any meaningful completion of the phrase]

OPTIONAL: At this point in the lesson, teachers may also want to discuss the following questions with the group to enhance cross-cultural linguistic awareness:

Awareness-raising discussion questions:

1. Are the responses provided by the native English speakers different from/similar to your your native language?

2. Are these responses different from/similar to your own responses in English?

3. What are the main similarities (if any) between your own responses and those provided by the native speakers?

4. What are the main differences (if any)?

Exercise 2. Understanding the implied meaning of the target formulas and explicit metapragmatic explanation

<u>Review 1.</u> *Match the pragmatic formulas with their best paraphrased versions. Pay careful attention to the hints provided for you.*

1. We should consider ____+ [any meaningful completion of the phrase]

   Hint: the verb 'should' is used to make a stronger suggestion in this context

2. How about ____+ [any meaningful completion of the phrase]?

   Hint: this is not an actual question in this context

3. I highly recommend it

   Hint: the word 'highly' means 'very much'

4. It/That might be an option

   Hint: the verb 'might' is used to express possibility in this context

5. Maybe we could ____+ [any meaningful completion of the phrase]

   Hint: the verb 'could' is used to express possibility in this context

a. I really think this is a good [place/restaurant]

b. I suggest we try this [place/restaurant]

c. I strongly recommend we try this [place/restaurant]

d. We may try this [place/restaurant]

e. This [restaurant] may be a good choice

Note: Note that these paraphrased versions are the interpretations of the author; teachers may want to create their own paraphrases.

Answer key: 1-c; 2-b; 3a-; 4-e; 5-d.

Review 2. Review each pragmatic formula again and decide whether each pragmatic formula is a direct or an indirect speech act. In other words, how direct was the speaker when he/she suggested their restaurant option? Circle or underline the chosen answer.

Very direct   Somewhat direct   Somewhat indirect   Very indirect

Hint: Direct speech acts is when the speaker says exactly what he/she means. Indirect speech acts is when the speaker means more than he/she says in reality. Indirect speech acts are generally considered more polite in English.

1. How about ____+ [any meaningful completion of the phrase]?

How direct was the speaker when he/she suggested their restaurant option?

Very direct   Somewhat direct   Somewhat indirect   Very indirect

2. Could I suggest ____+ [any meaningful completion of the phrase]?

How direct was the speaker when he/she suggested their restaurant option?

Very direct   Somewhat direct   Somewhat indirect   Very indirect

3. We should consider ____+ [any meaningful completion of the phrase]

How direct was the speaker when he/she suggested their restaurant option?

Very direct   Somewhat direct   Somewhat indirect   Very indirect

4. Just a suggestion

How direct was the speaker when he/she suggested their restaurant option?

Very direct   Somewhat direct   Somewhat indirect   Very indirect

5. I highly recommend it

How direct was the speaker when he/she suggested their restaurant option?

      Very direct   Somewhat direct   Somewhat indirect   Very indirect

6. I would recommend ____ + [any meaningful completion of the phrase]

How direct was the speaker when he/she suggested their restaurant option?

      Very direct   Somewhat direct   Somewhat indirect   Very indirect

7. Let's try _____+ [any meaningful completion of the phrase]

How direct was the speaker when he/she suggested their restaurant option?

      Very direct   Somewhat direct   Somewhat indirect   Very indirect

8. It/That might be an option

How direct was the speaker when he/she suggested their restaurant option?

      Very direct   Somewhat direct   Somewhat indirect   Very indirect

9. Maybe we could ____+ [any meaningful completion of the phrase]

How direct was the speaker when he/she suggested their restaurant option?

Very direct   Somewhat direct   Somewhat indirect   Very indirect

10. I think everyone would enjoy it

How direct was the speaker when he/she suggested their restaurant option?

Very direct   Somewhat direct   Somewhat indirect   Very indirect

OPTIONAL: At this point in the lesson, teachers may also want to provide some explicit explanation as to 3 key socio-pragmatic factors speakers have to keep in mind when engaging in a conversation to enhance L2 pragmatic competence development:

Teacher's script: *When you engage in a conversation with 2 or more people, there are 3 key factors you need to keep in mind:*

1. **Social distance** (how well do the speakers know each other; age & gender)

   Note: As the level of social distance increases (goes up), the level of politeness increases (goes up), *which affects the language choices*

2. **Power** (does the speaker have any power/authority over the hearer or vice versa; what are their roles)

   Note: As the level of power (goes up), the level of politeness increases (goes up), *which affects the language choices*

3. **Imposition** (the type of obligation the speaker is forcing the hearer to do- e.g., borrow money vs to borrow a pen- is this a high stakes context? What are potential risks?)

   Note: As the level of imposition (obligation/responsibility) increases, so does the level of politeness, *which affects the language choices*

Exercise 3: Speech act analysis

Instructions: Read each response and divide it into meaningful components (parts). Next, find a phrase that matches speaker's communicative strategy, as shown in the example. Check your answers with the rest of the class.

Example: Have you been to […]? I went last week, and it was amazing. We should consider it for the celebration.

Part 1	*Part 2*	*Part 3*
Have you been to […]?	I went last week, and it was amazing	We should consider it for the celebration

Speaker's strategy	Phrase
Opening question →	Have you been to […]?

Context →   I went last week, and it was amazing

Suggestion →   We should consider it for the celebration

1. I went to this great restaurant recently and I highly recommend it for our anniversary party. I think it would be perfect.

   Context →_____

   Suggestion → _____

   Follow-up comment → _____

2. How about 'Fauna'? The food is great and it's a huge venue.

   Suggestion → _____

   Context →_____

3. Could I suggest (restaurant name)? I was there last month, and it seemed large and well-equipped enough to handle a group reservation. And the food was really good!

   Suggestion → _____

   Context →_____

4. Actually, I went to this place downtown called [restaurant name] and it was really good. Maybe we could consider that?

*Context →*_____

Suggestion → _____

5. I went to X restaurant last week and it was really good, just a suggestion.

*Context →*_____

Suggestion → _____

6. Has anyone been to X? I was there last weekend and the food was amazing. Plus, it looked like they had a place in the back for larger parties...so that might be an option.

*Opening question →*_____

*Context →*_____

Suggestion → _____

7. I would recommend this restaurant. I went last week, and it was very good. I really enjoyed it.

Suggestion → _____

Context → _____

8. Well, I've discovered a really nice restaurant in the centre of the city [name]. The food is great, and I think everyone would enjoy it.

Context → _____

Indirect suggestion → _____

9. Let's try that new place downtown – Mad Radish! It's cash only, and all salads although there are vegan and non-vegan options. It's been getting great reviews from my friends.

Suggestion → _____

Context → _____

Phase 3: Practice (approx. 30 min)

Instructions:

<u>Part 1:</u> Students imagine that they all work for a company that is going to celebrate its 10th anniversary. They are divided into 3 groups/ 'departments' *(tech support, human resources, and payroll).* Each 'department' is supposed to choose a restaurant to celebrate their company's anniversary. Each group member is assigned a restaurant option (or he/she can pick their own option) and asked to research the menu options, prices, location, group booking options etc.

Once everybody in a group is ready, each member has to suggest their restaurant option to the rest of the group using the target pragmatic formulas and explain why this is a good option (the teacher monitors the groups making sure students are using the formulas).

By the end of Part 1 activity, each group is supposed to choose their restaurant. The teacher keeps track of each group's choice and puts the chosen options on the board **(List 1).**

Restaurant options:

> **The Grand Pizzeria**: http://www.thegrandpizzeria.com/
> **The Works gourmet burgers bistro:** https://worksburger.com/
> **The Biermarkt:** http://www.thebiermarkt.com/food/
> **Fauna: Food and Bar:** - http://www.faunaottawa.ca/restaurant/
> **Your option:** _____

Part 2: Now that each group has made their choice, the entire class ('company') needs to agree on one venue to celebrate their company's 10th anniversary. The students form 3 new groups. ***Each group has to include a representative from a different department. Each representative has to suggest their group's choice by using one or more target formulas from the list and explain why this is a good option (the teacher monitors the groups making sure students are using the formulas).***

By the end of Part 2 activity, each group is supposed to agree on one venue. The teacher keeps track of each group's choice and puts the chosen options on the board **(List 2).** Finally, the two lists are compared, and the venue that has been chosen the biggest number of times is announced the winner.