

## Suggest, Recommend and Advise

**Suggest:** to mention an idea, possible plan, or action for other people to consider.

**Recommend:** to suggest that someone or something would be good or suitable for a particular job or purpose, or to suggest that a particular action should be done.

**Advise:** to give or offer an opinion about what someone should do or how someone should act in a particular situation.

### These verbs can be used in three ways:

1. Suggest something (to someone)
2. Suggest doing something
3. Suggest that someone do something

### 1. Suggest something (to someone)

Pattern: suggest/recommend/advise + **noun**

He recommended **the restaurant** down the street.

- **Note:** if we also want to include who the suggestion is being made to, we can follow the noun object with **to + person/pronoun**  
He suggested the restaurant down the street **to his neighbour**.
- **Note:** *to + pronoun* and *to + person* at the end of the sentence with *advise* is best avoided, use: **advise + pronoun/person**  
The manager advised **us/the employees** on the new protocols.

### 2. Suggest doing something

Pattern: suggest/recommend/advise + **gerund**

The concierge recommends **taking** a guided tour of the island.

- **Note:** We must use **an infinitive** with *advise* if we include a **noun/pronoun object** in the sentence.  
My teacher advised **us to study**.
- **Note:** The infinitive after *recommend* is less common in everyday contexts, it's better to use: **recommend + that clause**  
~~The plumber recommended **me to buy** a new water heater.~~  
The plumber recommended **that I buy** a new water heater.

### 3. Suggest that someone do something

Pattern: suggest/recommend/advise **that + subject + subjunctive**

The company suggested **that we take** an extra day off.

- **Note:** The subjunctive is the same as the base form of the verb and it does not change depending on the subject.  
Her parents suggest **that she study** harder so she can get into a good university.
- **Note:** To form the negative, use *not* before the verb  
I suggest that you **not take** the job without renegotiating the salary.
- **Note:** The word **should** is used to express the idea of "subjunctiveness"  
The doctor recommended **that she should** see a specialist about the problem.

**a. Complete the sentences**

1. The sales assistant C she try on a black dress.  
a. recommend      b. advises      c. suggested that
2. Carl was injured last week, and the doctor C not play in the next match.  
a. suggests him      b. advised him      c. recommended that he
3. The lawyer B his client not to discuss the case with anyone.  
a. recommends      b. advised      c. suggested
4. Juan C we leave early to allow time for traffic.  
a. recommends      b. advised      c. suggested that
5. Gabriella A having dinner at the restaurant close to my house.  
a. suggested      b. recommend      c. advise
6. Her family A her to wait a few years before she gets married.  
a. advised      b. suggested      c. recommends that

**b. Choose the correct verb**

1. The waiter recommended that we A the curry soup because it's very spicy.  
a. not try      b. don't try      c. isn't trying
2. I recommend that he C to the doctor as soon as possible.  
a. going      b. goes      c. go
3. Professor Plum suggested that Paula B harder for the final exam.  
a. studies      b. should study      c. to study
4. The teacher recommended B a few lines in my essay.  
a. I change      b. changing      c. to change
5. He advised me A hard.  
a. to work      b. that I work      c. working

**c. Write the sentences in the correct order**

1. video games / suggested / we / The teacher / not / playing / after school / waste time / that.  
The teacher suggested that we not waste time playing video games after school.
2. the problem / should / that / The doctor / about / recommended / she / a specialist / see.  
The doctor recommended that she should see a specialist about the problem.
3. the / My brother / me / Greek restaurant / recommended / new / to / has.  
My brother has recommended the new Greek restaurant to me.
4. Frank / read / assembling / that / carefully / I / before / the bicycle / the directions / suggest.  
I suggest that Frank read the directions carefully before assembling the bicycle.
5. smart suit / I / wear / him / to / a / to / advised / the interview.  
I advised him to wear a smart suit to the interview.