

NEGOTIATING AND COMPROMISING

A2-B1 | Functional language for finding a solution together

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases to suggest a fair solution when people want different things.

How about ...?

How about meeting in the middle?

What if we ...?

What if we go on Saturday instead?

Could we ...?

Could we share the work?

Maybe we can ...

Maybe we can choose a cheaper option.

Let's find a solution.

Let's find a solution that works for both of us.

I can ..., if you can ...

I can cook if you can wash up.

Would you be happy to ...?

Would you be happy to start a little later?

That sounds fair.

That sounds fair. Let's do that.

2 Respond to the situations

Write one phrase that suggests a compromise in each situation.

1. You want to meet your friend on Saturday, but they are only free on Sunday afternoon.

2. You want pizza for dinner, but your friend wants noodles.

3. Two classmates both want to give the first part of a presentation.

4. You want to watch a film at home, but your friend wants to go out.

5. You want to take a taxi to the airport, but your friend wants to take the bus to save money.

6. Your colleague wants you to finish all of a shared task today, but you have other work.

7. You want to start a group meeting at nine, but another student can't arrive until nine thirty.

8. You want to borrow your friend's car all weekend, but they need it on Sunday.

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A2-B1 | Suggested answers

3 Possible answers

These are examples only. Other accurate and suitable responses are also correct.

Encourage students to choose a phrase that suits the relationship and situation.

1. What if we meet on Sunday afternoon instead?

2. How about pizza today and noodles next time?

3. Could we share the first part of the presentation?

4. Maybe we can watch a film at home tonight and go out tomorrow.

5. How about taking the bus and using a taxi only if we are late?

6. I can do half today if you can do the rest tomorrow.

7. Would you be happy to start the meeting at nine thirty?

8. Could I borrow it on Saturday and bring it back before Sunday?
