

PERSUADING

B2-C1 | Conversation practice examples for influencing decisions tactfully

Conversation: Giving an unfinished idea a chance

Helen	I'm thinking of withdrawing my workshop proposal. The programme committee will expect something more polished.
Marco	I'd encourage you to speak to the organiser first. They asked for proposals, not finished workshops.
Helen	I still haven't decided how to adapt the activities for a large group.
Marco	Have you considered offering a smaller session? Your activities worked well with ten people last month.
Helen	They did, although those participants all knew the subject already.
Marco	Then explain who the session is for. You might find that the organisers are looking for exactly that level.
Helen	I suppose there's no reason to assume they'll reject it before I've asked.
Marco	Exactly. It would be a shame to miss the opportunity over a question they could answer in a short call.

Key phrases: I'd encourage you to / Have you considered / You might find that / It would be a shame to

Conversation: Funding a repair workshop

Chair	The council can fund only one new activity. Why should we choose your repair workshop over another social event?
Elena	One advantage would be that residents could learn useful skills while meeting their neighbours.
Chair	But repairs need equipment and experienced volunteers. Isn't that a bigger commitment?
Elena	It is, which is why there's a strong case for starting with a single monthly session, not a weekly programme.
Chair	How would we know whether it's worth continuing?
Elena	We'd record attendance, completed repairs and costs. The potential benefits seem worth a small initial investment.
Chair	I'd want to see volunteers confirmed before we release any money.
Elena	That's reasonable. It may be worth meeting the two retired technicians who've offered to lead it. They can answer your safety questions.

Key phrases: One advantage would be / there's a strong case for / The potential benefits seem worth / It may be worth

Create your own conversation

Choose one prompt. Use at least two key phrases and include a natural response and follow-up.

Prompt 1: Encourage a colleague not to abandon a promising proposal. Respond to their specific doubts.

Prompt 2: Make a persuasive case for funding a small community project. Address resources and how success will be assessed.