

File 4 Practical English
Making suggestions

a

The problem is that Jacques is delayed in Rome so he can't look after Scarlett Scarpino, a young pop singer who will be in Paris that day. Jacques was going to look after her, but now Allie and Mark will have to. They decide to take her on a boat trip, then to the Eiffel tower and finally to lunch at the Renaissance (Jacques's favourite restaurant).

c

A = Allie, J = Jacques, B = Ben, M = Mark

A I got a message this morning. It's from Jacques.

J (on the answerphone) Allie, it's Jacques. I'm in Rome. My return flight's been cancelled. There's a small problem. Scarlett Scarpino is in Paris for her concert this evening. I was going to look after her today. Could you possibly take care of her? Thank you. And see you later.

A You've met Scarlett Scarpino, haven't you, Ben?

B The punk princess? Yeah, I met her in London last year.

A What's she like?

B Let's say she's a bit...difficult.

A What are we going to **do** with her?

M Why **don't** you show her around Paris?

A I have a **better** idea. Why don't you show her around Paris?

M What, me? I'm new here!

A You can't leave me to do this on my own.

M OK, why **don't** we take her to Nôtre Dame? I mean, it's her first time in Paris, isn't it?

B I don't think churches are really her thing.

M How **about** taking her on a boat trip?

A Brilliant!

M And then we could go up the Eiffel Tower.

A **That's** a good idea. I'm sure she'll love the view.

B And she might fall off!

M Thanks for your help, Ben. **Shall** we have lunch after that?

A **Let's** go somewhere really nice. Do you have any recommendations, Ben?

B **What** about La Renaissance? It's Jacques's favourite.

A That sounds perfect. Er, Ben, do you want to come too?

B Sorry, Allie. I'm really busy. But I'm sure you'll have an unforgettable meal.

e

Why don't we take her to Nôtre Dame?
How about taking her on a boat trip?
Shall we have lunch after that?
Let's go somewhere really nice.
What about La Renaissance?

- you can use either *What about..?* or *How about...?* in the second and fifth sentences. If you use a verb after *What / How about*, it must be in the *-ing* form.
- *Let's...* is an abbreviation of *Let us...* and is a kind of imperative used to make a strong suggestion, i.e. when you have a clear idea of what you think is the best thing to do.
- the other four ways of making suggestions are less strong, i.e. you use them to ask someone their opinion about what the best thing to do is.

Social English

a

A pizza margherita.

b

- 1 F (She's hungry but thinks that the food in the restaurant is 'horrible'.)
- 2 T
- 3 F (She's allergic to mushrooms, strawberries, and nuts.)
- 4 T (She was 'seasick'.)
- 5 F (Scarlett didn't want to because she can't stand heights.)
- 6 T (She thinks she's spoilt.)
- 7 T