

50 natural English Tips

8. "GIVING YOUR OPINION"



natural English

this /ðɪs/ / that (one); these /ði:z/ / those (ones)

Use *this / that (one)* and *these / those (ones)* to show which things (NOT people) you're talking about.

singular

I like **this one**.

plural

I quite like **these (ones)**.

(*this / these* = near me)

I prefer **that one**.

I don't like **those (ones)**.

(*that / those* = NOT near me)

Which one / ones do you like / prefer?



natural English

giving opinions, agreeing and disagreeing

I think we should take the plane.

Yes, I agree.

(Personally,) I don't think we should go by train.

No, maybe not.

I think it would be better to hire a car.

I'm not sure about that.



natural English

talking about priorities

I think the most important thing is good accommodation.

Hot, sunny weather's a **priority** /praɪ'ɒrəti/ for me.

I think you have to have some adventure and excitement.

You don't need great beaches.



natural English

suggesting and responding

We could call it 'Paradise Hotel'.

Yeah, that's a good idea. 😊

Let's have a French restaurant.

Hmm. I'm not sure about that. 😞



natural English

suggestions and responses

Why don't you try giving up with a friend?

Yes, (that's a) good idea.

Have you thought about hypnosis?

Hmm, I'm not sure about that.

You could avoid places where people smoke.

Yeah, that sounds sensible. /'sensəbl/



What's the context?

These *natural English* phrases could be used:

- planning something (a project, a party, a trip...)
- advising a friend
- shopping with a friend
- choosing something (a holiday, a mobile phone, a new car...)

Look through the *natural English* boxes. Find *natural English* phrases that you could use in each of the different contexts above.

Example: when planning a project – **I think it would be better to** hire a manager.



Study the *natural English* phrases

Complete the dialogues using the *natural English* phrases

I prefer that one. ~~Which one do you like?~~ I quite like this one.

Anita There are lots of hats here, look. What do you think? *Example: Which one do you like?*

Bella a) _____ It's a nice blue colour.

Anita b) Oh, do you think so? _____. It's more colourful.

Have you thought about You could try We could Hmm, I'm not sure about that.

Carol I feel really stressed and unfit at the moment.

Dave c) _____ yoga.

Carol d) _____

Dave e) _____ trying the new open-air swimming pool? It looks very relaxing.

Carol Yes, that's a good idea. f) _____ go together.

Dave Great!

Have you thought about No, maybe not. I think we should
I'm not sure about that. a priority I think the most important thing is

Ed So, any ideas on how solve this problem? I think we need a completely new strategy.

Fiona g) _____ do a survey in the street, to see what people think about the TV adverts.

Ed h) _____.

Gary Why not? Sounds like a great idea to me.

Ed Well, getting this sorted out quickly is i) _____ for me.

Hank Yes, I agree. j) _____ saving money: market research will simply cost too much.

Gary k) _____ changing the time the TV ads are shown?

Maybe it's as simple as that, and we don't need to change our strategy altogether.

Ed l) _____



Activate the *natural English* phrases

'A summer party'

You and your friend are planning a big summer party with your friends. You have different opinions about what is important to make this party a success.

Look at the information below. There are some things that you have a strong opinion about, so think carefully about what your opinion is, and how you will present it. What natural English phrases can you use in your conversation?

Student A

You definitely want the party to be outdoors.

(Where? *In the park? On the beach? By the river?)*

You think the number of guests is very important.

(How many people? *A small group of close friends? A really big party with lots of people?)*

You have strong opinions about the food and drink.

(What? Hot food? Cold food? People bring their own?)

You also need to think about

- The time of day for the party
- The music

Student B

You definitely want the party to be indoors.

(Where? *In a nightclub? In a hotel? At your house?)*

You think the time of day is very important.

(When? *Afternoon? Evening? All night?)*

You have strong opinions about the music.

(What? *Classical? Rock? Dance?)*

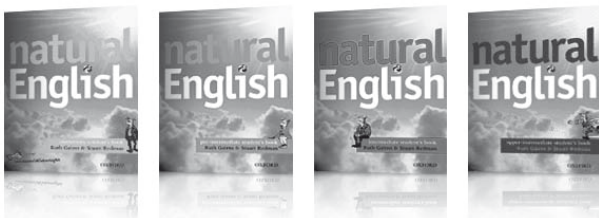
You also need to think about

- The number of guests
- The food and drink

When you are ready, discuss the party with your partner. Give your opinions, but also listen carefully to your partner's opinions. Be prepared to change your ideas.

What is your final plan?

Place	
Time of day	
Number of guests	
Food and drink	
Music	



These tips are brought to you by *natural English*, the course where students use English naturally.