

Change of plan

B1 · Adults and teens · Five phrases for everyday problems

1. Look. What might go wrong with their picnic?



JO & SAM · PICNIC GROUP

Jo

Rain tomorrow! We've run out of water.

Sam

Let's find out if the hall is free.

Jo

Or put off the picnic until Sunday?

2. Read the chat or listen to Jo's voice note.

► Play Jo's message

What are the two problems?

What information do they need?

3. Give them one idea.

We could ...

What would you need to check first?

Read the chat aloud. Make Jo sound worried and Sam sound helpful.
Now look at the five useful phrases on the next page.

Five phrases. Lots of uses.

Check the meaning, then try an example about your life.

1

put off

do something later

We could put off the picnic until Sunday.

2

call off

cancel a plan or event

Let's call off the outdoor picnic.

3

run out of

have none left

We've run out of water.

4

find out

get information you did not know

Let's find out whether the hall is free.

5

come up with

think of an idea or solution

Can you come up with an indoor plan?

A small pattern that helps

put it off · **call it off** (not put off it)

run out of water · **come up with** a plan

Choose one phrase. Tell a real or invented example. Your partner asks why.

What does the sign mean?

Cover the support page. Finish each phrase. Match it to A-E.

- A**

THE CORNER CAFÉ

NO MILK TODAY
Sorry!

1. p____ o____

Sign / message: ____
- B**

WEEKEND CLUB

Any ideas for a new name?

2. c____ o____

Sign / message: ____
- C**

TRIP DATE CHANGED

Saturday → Sunday
Same place. New day.

3. r____ o____ o____

Sign / message: ____
- D**

FROM A FRIEND

Please check when the museum opens.

4. f____ o____

Sign / message: ____
- E**

SATURDAY CONCERT

CANCELLED
No new date.

5. c____ u____ w____

Sign / message: ____

Check on the support page. Correct what you need. Cover it again.

Rescue the picnic

You are planning an afternoon with friends. Which plan suits your group?

OUR GROUP

8 people · Saturday at 12:00 · Budget £20
Bottled water costs £4 with either plan.
Saturday: heavy rain. Sunday: dry.

HALL · SATURDAY

Room: **£12**
All **8** can come.
Food and drinks allowed.

PARK · SUNDAY

Park: **free**
Only **5** can come.
Bring a picnic blanket.

1. Choose a plan together. Give a reason.

I'd choose ... because ...

What about ...? / What do we need to find out?

2. Stop! Sam has an update.

Ask your teacher for the message. Keep or change your plan?

3. Tell the group your final plan.

Say **where**, **when** and **what to bring**.

Use two lesson phrases if they fit. Your listener asks one question.

A card before eight

Try without the support page first. Use ? if a phrase will not come.



OMAR · 18:00

Our friend leaves at 20:00.

The printer has no ink.

I have paper, pencils and my phone. How can all eight of us join in?

► Read the message above or listen to Omar

Four friends are here. Four can text by 19:30.
Our friend likes paper cards.

A · PAPER + TEXTS

Draw a card. Four sign it.
The others send their
messages separately.

B · ONE DIGITAL CARD

Collect eight messages.
Send one group card
from Omar's phone.

Choose A, B or a better idea.

Tell Omar your choice, a reason and one next step.
Try to use two phrases from memory.

Listener: ask one useful question.

Check your phrases afterwards. Say one part again if it needs changing.

Your plans. Your stories.

Choose one question from each group. Listen and ask a follow-up.

PLANS THAT CHANGE

1. When is it better to put off a plan than call it off?
2. What might make you cancel an outdoor event?
3. A friend keeps putting off replying. What would you say?
4. Tell us about a plan you changed. What happened?

SMALL PROBLEMS

5. Your phone dies in a new city. What do you do?
6. You've run out of an ingredient. What could you cook?
7. Your bus is cancelled. How could you reach an appointment?
8. A picnic costs too much. What cheaper plan could work?

YOUR IDEAS

9. What would you find out before booking a party room?
10. Do better ideas come to you alone or with others?
11. What useful thing do you often run out of?
12. Which lesson phrase could you use this week? How?

Keep it going: **Why? What happened next? What else could you do?**
Use the phrases when they fit. You do not need one in every answer.



A lesson with room to talk

B1 · Supported A2 · Core: about 40 minutes · Page references use the complete pack.

Goal: retrieve five useful phrases and use them to handle a change of plan. Learners choose, explain, listen and adapt. Read or listen; do not make learners repeat both routes.

5 min · Picture and story (page 1)

Elicit what learners notice before giving the message. Read the chat OR play track 1. Check rain and no water. Learners suggest one idea. Try a brief expressive read-aloud after meaning is clear.

8 min · Useful language (page 2)

Use the five cards. Distinguish later from cancelled. Learners give one personal example. Briefly check put it off / call it off and keep of / with.

7 min · Notice and recall (page 3)

Hide support. Learners complete and match the five phrases; allow ?. Check, repair and cover again. Avoid a second identical drill.

15 min · Decide and adapt (page 4)

Compare both plans. After a first decision, play track 2 or show the private update below. Learners adapt and leave a brief final group message with a listener question.

5 min · Feedback and fresh check

Give one useful correction. With pages hidden, say: The meeting is now next week. / We have no tea left. Elicit put off and run out of in a new sentence. Ask for an independent third example.

PRIVATE UPDATE · reveal after the first decision

The hall has cancelled the booking. The school offers a **free room at 12:00 for all eight**, but **no food or drink is allowed in the room**.

An indoor games meeting could work. A Sunday picnic keeps food together but loses three people. Other sensible plans are welcome.



Check meaning. Keep choice.

Keys use complete-pack pages. Microsoft voices: British, Indian and South African.

Keys and possible choices

Page 3: 1 put off → C; 2 call off → E; 3 run out of → A;

4 find out → D; 5 come up with → B.

Picnic: hall + water £16 for eight; park + water £4 for five. The school changes the activity, not just the price: no food/drink indoors.

Card: A gives a keepsake but separates messages. B includes everyone together but has no paper card. A hybrid plan also works if learners explain the timing.

Audio scripts / teacher-read fallback

1. Jo's picnic message

Hi, it's Jo. We're planning a picnic for eight people this Saturday. The forecast says heavy rain, and we've run out of bottled water. Sam's checking whether we can use the hall. I don't want to call the whole thing off. Can you come up with another plan?

2. Sam's update (private until the picnic task)

Hi, it's Sam. The hall has just cancelled our booking. The school can offer us a room for free at twelve. All eight people can come, but we can't eat or drink in the room. What shall we tell everyone?

3. Omar's card problem

Hi, it's Omar. Our friend leaves at eight tonight, and we've run out of printer ink. I've got paper, pencils and my phone. Four friends are here. Four more can text by half past seven. Our friend likes paper cards. How can we include everybody?

Two ways to make it yours

Gav: follow an interesting picture or learner story, then return to one useful phrase.

Em: use the clear cards and expressive read-aloud before the decision task.

Make it work for your learners

A2: start with put off, call off and run out of. Keep support visible.

One-to-one: take a different preference; let the learner decide.

Quiet learners: allow notes and thinking time. **Challenge:** hide phrase clues.

Return visits: use page 5 next lesson; choose from page 6 a week later.

Record one phrase: independent / after a cue / with support. Recheck it later.

Homework has its own key. Original activities; editorially checked, classroom trial pending.

Small problems. Useful replies.

Try the tasks before you turn to the key.

1. Choose the phrase for each situation.

find out · call off · come up with · put off · run out of

Use each phrase once. Write the whole phrase.

1. The talk will not happen. There is no new date.

2. The trip is next Friday instead of tomorrow.

3. There is no paper left in the printer.

4. You need to know what time the shop closes.

5. You need a new idea for a club activity.

2. Repair one small mistake in each reply.

6. Let's put off it. → _____

7. Can you come up a plan? → _____

8. We've run out milk. → _____

3. Reply in your notebook. Use two phrases and suggest a next step.

FROM A FRIEND

The café is closed today. Where shall we meet?

Check, then try again

Your reply can be different from the example.

1. The phrase and the reason

1 • **call off**

The talk is cancelled.

2 • **put off**

The trip will happen later.

3 • **run out of**

There is none left.

4 • **find out**

You need information.

5 • **come up with**

You need an idea.

2. Small repairs

6. Let's **put it off**. Put the pronoun between put and off.

7. Can you **come up with** a plan? Keep with.

8. We've **run out of** milk. Keep of before the thing.

3. One possible reply

Let's find out whether the library café is open. Then we won't need to put off our meeting. I can call them now.

Check: two phrases used correctly, a sensible plan and one next step.