

Functional Language Practice: Expressing preferences, raising objections and coming to an agreement

- 1 Lily and Ben are planning a birthday treat for their friend Tamara. Complete the dialogue with the phrases below.

Don't you think I like the idea I quite fancy I'd rather is a better option OK, I agree
 Sorry, but I don't think that's settled we need to make would be fun

- Lily What do you think we should do for Tamara's birthday? I think bowling ¹_____.
 We could go to that new bowling alley next to the cinema.
- Ben ²_____ it would be difficult to get to? It's quite far from the train station.
³_____ of rollerblading. We can hire rollerblades at the Queen Mary Park. It'll be really cool.
- Lily ⁴_____ that's a very good idea. What if the weather's bad? I think an indoor activity
⁵_____ than an outdoor activity at this time of year.
- Ben OK, well, ⁶_____ ice skating. Have you been to the ice rink at the leisure centre?
- Lily No, I haven't. ⁷_____ go ice skating than rollerblading. But the ice rink is quite expensive.
- Ben Look, ⁸_____ a decision. I know the ice rink is expensive, but it is Tamara's birthday. It's easy to get to and it's indoors.
- Lily ⁹_____. Let's go ice skating.
- Ben Great, ¹⁰_____ then. I'll book it this afternoon.

- 2 Act out the dialogue in pairs.
- 3 Work in pairs. Look at the three photos below. Think of two reasons for and two reasons against doing each of these activities.
- 4 **SPEAKING** Imagine that you are planning a day out for your friends. You have to choose one of the activities shown below. Discuss your ideas together. Use the phrases from exercise 1 to help you. Agree on an activity. Act out your dialogue to the rest of the class.



2 Functional Language Practice: Expressing preferences, raising objections and coming to an agreement

Aims: To practise expressing preferences, raising objections and coming to an agreement. This draws on the language in Lesson 2G.

Time: 15–20 minutes

Materials: One handout for each student

Exercise 1

- Give each student a handout and explain that Lily and Ben are planning a birthday outing for their friend Tamara. Ask students to read through the conversation quickly and to identify the three options which Lily and Ben discuss (*bowling, rollerblading, ice skating*) and which one they finally agree on (*ice skating*). Then tell students to choose the correct phrases to complete the dialogue.
- Check answers with the class.

KEY

- 1 would be fun
- 2 Don't you think
- 3 I like the idea
- 4 Sorry, but I don't think
- 5 is a better option
- 6 I quite fancy
- 7 I'd rather
- 8 we need to make
- 9 OK, I agree
- 10 that's settled

Exercise 2

- Students work in pairs to act out the completed dialogue. Encourage them to think about the meaning and to use a range of expression and intonation in their dialogue.

Exercise 3

- Students work in pairs, thinking of arguments for and against each activity shown in the three photos. Alternatively, you could do this with the whole class, brainstorming the ideas onto the board and leaving them there as prompts for the speaking activity.

Exercise 4

- Students discuss the three possible options in pairs. Remind them to use the phrases from exercise 1. They then act out their dialogue to the class.