

Lesson Plan: Modals for advice

Level: Intermediate (B1/B2)

Time: 60 minutes

Focus: Giving advice in English using *should, ought to, had better, could*.

Objective:

Students will be able to use modal verbs (*should, ought to, had better, could*) to give and ask for advice.

Materials:

- Whiteboard or digital slides
- Handouts with exercises (optional)
- Scenario cards or images (e.g., someone sick, late for work, etc.)

1. Warm-Up (10 mins)

Activity: "What's your advice?"

- Ask students: "*What do you do when you have a problem?*"
- Show a few simple images (e.g., someone tired, someone with a broken phone).
- Elicit advice using "should": "*She should take a nap.*"
- Write modal verbs on the board: **should, ought to, had better, could**

2. Presentation (15 mins)

Teach the form and function:

Modal Verb	Use	Example
should	general advice	You should study more.
ought to	formal advice	You ought to apologize.
had better	strong advice / warning	You had better take your medicine.
could	weak suggestion / option	You could talk to a doctor.

Discuss nuances between them. Emphasize tone and strength of advice.

3. Practice (15 mins)

Pair Work: Role-play giving advice

- Give pairs a list of problems (e.g., "I can't sleep at night." "I lost my job.")
- Students take turns giving advice using different modals.

Example:

A: *"I feel really tired."*

B: *"You should go to bed earlier."*

A: *"You could also drink less coffee."*

4. Production (15 mins)

Group Activity: "Advice Clinic"

- Set up a pretend "clinic" where one student has a problem, and others are "advice experts."
- Encourage students to use at least two different modals in their responses.

5. Wrap-Up / Homework (5 mins)

- Review: Ask students to recall 3 ways to give advice.
- Homework: Write a short paragraph giving advice to a friend about a problem (use at least 3 modals).