

ENGLISH HELPSHEET

PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING

Giving instructions / Guiding

Today I'd like to ask you to...
... following which you will...
The aim is for you to learn ...
You will need to do...
This should take you about 2 hours.

Introductions

Let's go around the table and introduce ourselves.
Hi, my name is Nina, and I'm majoring in bioMEDical engiNEERING.
Sorry, I didn't catch your name.
Hi Nina, nice to meet you.

Establishing ground rules

Let's agree on a number of ground rules.
Do you all agree that we want to start and finish meetings on time?
Can we all agree that it's important for everyone to come prepared?
I suggest that we ROTate the group MOderator /scribe/ SECRetary / time keeper every week.
Does everyone agree with that?
Any other suggestions?
We can always go back and adjust these rules if we feel that it's NEcessary.

Getting started / Guiding

Let's get started.	Where were we?
What do we already know?	Who did what last time?
What do we need to know?	What did you do last week?
What should we do?	Could you quickly brief us on what you did last week?
Who's in charge of what?	

Assessing the situation

Some information is lacking.
It was not that well described.
We should have added ...
Apart from/aside from that, ...
FORtunately, ...
UnFORtunately, ...
Not necesSArily.
In order to solve this problem we have checked/aSSESSed/VERified different compONents.
That's odd.
Something must have gone wrong somewhere.
We already knew that.

Making suggestions / Guiding

How about using this?
Why don't we try this? / Why don't we give it a try?
You could check out this website.
We should go back to chapter 4 in the course notes.
Have you thought of...?
I suggest we make...
Speaking of this integral, have you?
I'm wondering whether you could...
What about the question of...?
Make sure you're taking into account that...

Discussing possibilities

→ see also our Grammar Review section on the CLIL website for a recap on how to use the conditional

This could work if we used ...
What if we replaced this by...?
If we use x, then what will/could happen is that...
If we state that x is, then y will ...
SupPOse that x equals ..., then y can only...
If we asSUme that...
According to our hyPOthesis...
If we consider that...
Based on x we can say that...
Depending on x we will be able to...
The results will vary according to the value we use.
In PRINciple this shouldn't affect the outcome.

How about doing it this way?
What else could we try?
What's our initial hyPOthesis?
Have we considered other hyPOtheSES?

The next step will be...
After that we should...

Clarifying / Questioning

→ see also English helpsheet: Asking Questions

Where are you at?
Could you specify that?
Could you elaborate?
What else?
To what end?
How would you FORMulate/exPRESS this?
How do you JUSTify that choice?
Can you tell us how you arrived at that conclusion?
Are you quite certain of that?
Could you give us an idea of ...?
That would depend on x wouldn't it?
What's the difference between the two?
What would make x happen?

So what you're saying is ...?
Do you see what I mean?
In fact, ...
In other words, ...
I thought you said that ...?
Didn't we say that we would drop that part?
You said that it worked out perfectly, right?

I said that I didn't agree with it.
What I'm asking is if you have done ...
I think that we're having trouble following you.
If you look at the title/the problem statement you will see that...

Group management / Facilitating

Hold on, we're going too fast.
Let's retrace our steps.
Let's go back for a second.
Do you agree with that or not?
Let's try to stay on track / on topic.
We're running out of time.
Let's conclude this point and move on.
Let's move on to the next point.
We can always come back to that later.

We haven't heard from Tom yet.
Why don't we all listen to Tom, it sounds like he might have an interesting idea.
Maybe we can start with Rebecca this time?
Let's hear her out.
Sorry about the interruption. Where were we at?
I said I would take care of that part.

Agreeing and confirming

That's right.
Absolutely.
Ok, got it.
As you said...
I'm largely in agreement with...
I agree with...

Disagreeing

I'm afraid I don't quite agree with that.
I am concerned that ...
I'm worried that it won't work the way we want it to if...
I am not sure if ... / whether ...
If you remember, we discussed this before and preferred not to ...
I would prefer not to...
I feel like that might cost us a lot of time without guaranteeing a result.

Wrapping up a session

Let's recap.
Today we managed to ...
We agreed that ...
For next week our goal should be ...
I would like you to ...
Our report is due next week.
Could you all submit a first draft by next Monday?
That's it for today.
Let's make sure that...
Did we forget anything?
We'll be in touch.