

UPPER INTERMEDIATE UNIT 1

an advice forum message; editing for accuracy

speakout WRITING TIP

When you write someone a message on an advice forum, you need to show that you identify with their problem. What would you do in a similar situation and why would you do it? You should also explain where they can get more information to help solve their problem. Remember to sign off in a friendly way and wish them good luck!

- 1 What advice would you give somebody on how to make friends in a new place?
- 2 Read the messages below and answer the questions:
 - 1 Do you agree with the advice Elif gives to Joao?
 - 2 What other advice would you give him?
 - 3 Does Elif's reply in the way that is suggested in the writing tip above?
- 3 Read Elif's reply again and find:
 - 1 A phrase which shows you identify with the reader.
 - 2 Three phrases which give advice.

Hi Everyone,
I've just moved to a new city and I don't know anyone! I've moved here for work but the people I work with are much older and I don't think we've got much in common. I'm feeling quite lonely and I'm keen to get out and meet new people. The problem is, I work long hours and don't have much spare time during the week. Does anyone have any ideas on how I can meet new friends?

Hi Joao,
I know how you feel because I've been in the same situation. I'm from Ankara and moved to Istanbul for a new job. At first I found it difficult to meet people, but now I'm really happy. If I were you, I'd try talking to your colleagues. You might think that because they're older you have nothing in common, but you might be surprised! When my boss found out that I loved going to the cinema, she told me about a weekly film club, where you watch the film, then go and discuss it over coffee afterwards.
This was perfect for me, because it was after work, and I was with other film geeks. I also discovered that some of them played basketball at the weekend, which I love, and now I play in a local league with them.
So, you should talk to your colleagues and take advantage of their local knowledge. It's a good idea to find something that fits in with your lifestyle, then you'll make friends in no time!
Good luck!
Elif

- 4A Read the advice below and correct the mistakes using the code below.

Correction code

v = verb form sp = spelling gr = grammar
p = punctuation ww = wrong word
wo = word order st = style

- B Read the advice again. Find two more expressions which give advice.

Hi Joao,
I completely understand your problem! A few years ago, I moved cities and I felt really ¹alone at first. (ww)
²You have thought about using social media to meet people? (wo) A colleague told me I should join the local social network page to find out what activities and events were going on in the area, and to ask local people for their advice. It was one of the ³most easy and best things I've ever done! (gr) I found out that there was a book group in my local café (I love reading) and I've made some really good ⁴friendns there. (sp)
You can find these groups by searching 'Istanbul local groups' or if ⁵youve got a particular hobby or interest you could search for that. (p)
If it ⁶is me, I'd definitely go online and search for some local groups. (v) It might ⁷to take time, but you'll feel more at home soon! (gr)
⁸Kind regards, (st)
Stefania

- 5 Read the forum question below and write a reply to Isa (120–180 words).

Hi Everyone,
I hope you can give me some advice! I used to be spontaneous, and a good laugh, but since I turned 30, I think I've become boring. Every day is the same. I get up, go to work, come home, watch TV and go to bed. I can't remember the last time I did something new or exciting! What can I do to get out of this rut. Even my cat is bored with me!
Isa.

Plan your writing

- What advice can you give Isa?
- Show you identify with her situation and give advice on how she can solve her problem.

Check your writing

- Have you used phrases for giving advice?
- Have you checked your grammar and spelling?
- Did you find any mistakes?