

# English Ladder

Student Workbook

## Understanding the Usage of "Recommend" and "Suggest"

A polished self-study handout designed for print or tablet use. Read the concept, notice the pattern, and then complete the matching practice set on your own.



Grammar Concepts #17

Key Points

Additional Examples

Practice Exercises

### Visual anchor

Use the concept poster to spotlight the main language pattern in **Understanding the Usage of "Recommend" and "Suggest"** and keep the explanation visible during practice and discussion.

**ENGLISH LADDER** Concept #17 ► **Recommend & Suggest**

The words **"recommend"** and **"suggest"** use a unique verb style. We will first look at the normal style, then at the unique style of these special verbs.

**Normal**

Most verbs are followed by an object pronoun such as "me", "her", and "them". The style is of the form **"He [verb] [object pronoun] to [action]."**

My boss wants **me to** finish the report soon.  
I need **you to** set up a meeting for Friday.  
She expected **us to** return to the office by noon.

**Unique**

However, a small set of verbs use subject pronouns such as "I", "she", and "they". This set includes: **Suggest | Recommend | Hope | Insist | Prefer | Request**. This style is of the form **"He [verb] (that) [subject pronoun] [action]."**

I suggested (that) **they** take a break.  
I hope (that) **she** does not burn out from overwork.  
He insisted (that) **I** go home since I looked tired.  
I prefer (that) **she** give me fewer assignments.  
He requested/insisted (that) **we** work remotely.

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## Core Idea

In English, the verbs "recommend" and "suggest" follow a unique pattern compared to most other verbs. Let's break down these patterns to help you understand their proper usage.

### Quick reference

Normal Verb Pattern	My boss wants me to finish the report soon. "wants" is the verb, "me" is the object pronoun, and "to finish" is the action.
Unique Verb Pattern	I suggested (that) they take a break. "suggested" is the verb, "they" is the subject pronoun, and "take a break" is the action.

## Key Points

### Normal Verb Pattern

Most verbs in English are followed by an object pronoun (e.g., me, her, them) and then an infinitive form of the verb (to + action). This structure looks like:

He [verb] [object pronoun] to [action].

Here are some examples to illustrate this pattern:

- My boss wants me to finish the report soon. "wants" is the verb, "me" is the object pronoun, and "to finish" is the action.
- I need you to set up a meeting for Friday. "need" is the verb, "you" is the object pronoun, and "to set up" is the action.
- She expected us to return to the office by noon. "expected" is the verb, "us" is the object pronoun, and "to return" is the action.

In these sentences, the verbs (wants, need, expected) are followed by an object pronoun (me, you, us) and then the infinitive form of another verb (to finish, to set up, to return).

### Unique Verb Pattern

A small set of verbs, including "suggest," "recommend," "hope," "insist," "prefer," and "request," use a different structure. Instead of an object pronoun, these verbs are followed by a subject pronoun (e.g., I, she, they) and sometimes the word "that" before the action verb.

The structure looks like this:

He [verb] (that) [subject pronoun] [action].

Let's look at some examples:



- I suggested (that) they take a break. "suggested" is the verb, "they" is the subject pronoun, and "take a break" is the action.
- I hope (that) she does not burn out from overwork. "hope" is the verb, "she" is the subject pronoun, and "does not burn out" is the action.
- He insisted (that) I go home since I looked tired. "insisted" is the verb, "I" is the subject pronoun, and "go home" is the action.
- I prefer (that) she give me fewer assignments. "prefer" is the verb, "she" is the subject pronoun, and "give" is the action.
- He requested/insisted (that) we work remotely. "requested/insisted" is the verb, "we" is the subject pronoun, and "work remotely" is the action.

In these sentences, the verbs (suggested, hope, insisted, prefer, requested/insisted) are followed by a subject pronoun (they, she, I, we) and the action verb (take a break, does not burn out, go home, give, work).

## Additional Examples

To further illustrate these unique patterns, here are more examples:

- Suggest She suggested (that) he try the new restaurant. They suggested (that) I start the project early.
- Recommend I recommend (that) you visit the museum. We recommend (that) he take the advanced course.
- Hope I hope (that) they arrive on time. She hopes (that) you succeed in your career.
- Insist They insisted (that) she attend the meeting. He insists (that) I follow the guidelines.
- Prefer I prefer (that) he speaks softly. We prefer (that) she stay at home today.
- Request I requested (that) they send the documents by email. She requested (that) I join the discussion.

## Practice Exercises

- Fill in the blanks with the correct form: She \_\_\_\_\_ (suggest) (that) I \_\_\_\_\_ (read) the book. We \_\_\_\_\_ (hope) (that) he \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) soon. He \_\_\_\_\_ (recommend) (that) she \_\_\_\_\_ (study) for the test. They \_\_\_\_\_ (insist) (that) we \_\_\_\_\_ (participate) in the event. I \_\_\_\_\_ (prefer) (that) you \_\_\_\_\_ (work) on the project.
- Rewrite the sentences using the unique verb pattern: My teacher wants me to complete the assignment. The manager needs them to attend the meeting. She asked us to help with the preparation.

Understanding these unique patterns will help you use these special verbs correctly in your sentences. Practice using them to become more comfortable with these structures.



## Practice Check

Answer the quiz questions below with responses consistent with the grammar concepts taught on the left.

### ITEM 01

**My boss suggested \_\_\_\_\_ take a day off.**

- A. I
- B. me
- C. my

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 02

**The teacher insisted \_\_\_\_\_ be quiet during the lesson.**

- A. we
- B. us
- C. our

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 03

**It is crucial he \_\_\_\_\_ the project on time.**

- A. finish
- B. finishes
- C. finished

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 04**

They recommended she \_\_\_\_\_ the report twice.

- A. check
- B. checks
- C. checked

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 05**

The coach insisted they \_\_\_\_\_ more focused during practice.

- A. be
- B. are
- C. were

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 06**

It is important \_\_\_\_\_ be on time for the meeting.

- A. I
- B. me
- C. my

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 07**

The manager asked that he \_\_\_\_\_ the report by Monday.

- A. submit
- B. submits
- C. submitted

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 08**

She requested that we \_\_\_\_\_ the meeting.

- A. attend
- B. attends
- C. attended

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 09**

It is necessary they \_\_\_\_\_ informed of any changes.

- A. be
- B. are
- C. were

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 10**

The director suggested she \_\_\_\_\_ the proposal carefully.

- A. review
- B. reviews
- C. reviewed

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 11**

The lawyer recommended we \_\_\_\_\_ cautious with their statements.

- A. be
- B. are
- C. were

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 12**

It is vital he \_\_\_\_\_ the rules clearly.

- A. understand
- B. understands
- C. understood

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 13**

The instructor demanded she \_\_\_\_\_ the assignment on time.

- A. complete
- B. completes
- C. completed

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 14**

It is essential we \_\_\_\_\_ early tomorrow.

- A. arrive
- B. arrives
- C. arrived

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 15**

The judge ordered they \_\_\_\_\_ in court.

- A. appear
- B. appears
- C. appeared

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 16**

The doctor suggested I \_\_\_\_\_ a break.

- A. take
- B. takes
- C. took

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 17**

It is recommended he \_\_\_\_\_ the instructions.

- A. follow
- B. follows
- C. followed

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 18**

The principal insisted we \_\_\_\_\_ on time.

- A. be
- B. are
- C. were

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 19**

The committee suggested they \_\_\_\_\_ the policy.

- A. review
- B. reviews
- C. reviewed

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 20**

It is imperative she \_\_\_\_\_ prepared.

- A. be
- B. is
- C. was

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 21**

The supervisor recommended we \_\_\_\_\_ the training.

- A. attend
- B. attends
- C. attended

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 22**

**It is crucial they \_\_\_\_\_ confidentiality.**

- A. maintain
  - B. maintains
  - C. maintained
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 23**

**The board suggested he \_\_\_\_\_ the budget.**

- A. approve
  - B. approves
  - C. approved
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 24**

**It is advised we \_\_\_\_\_ calm during emergencies.**

- A. stay
  - B. stays
  - C. stayed
- 

Correct choice: \_\_\_\_\_



## Self-check Answer Key

Use the key after you have completed every item on your own.

ITEM 01 A. I

ITEM 02 A. we

ITEM 03 A. finish

ITEM 04 A. check

ITEM 05 A. be

ITEM 06 A. I

ITEM 07 A. submit

ITEM 08 A. attend

ITEM 09 A. be

ITEM 10 A. review

ITEM 11 A. be

ITEM 12 A. understand

ITEM 13 A. complete

ITEM 14 A. arrive



ITEM 15

A. appear

ITEM 16

A. take

ITEM 17

A. follow

ITEM 18

A. be

ITEM 19

A. review

ITEM 20

A. be

ITEM 21

A. attend

ITEM 22

A. maintain

ITEM 23

A. approve

ITEM 24

A. stay