

Teaching guides:

- Target students: Senior secondary students
- Corpus used: Senior High English Readings (a corpus built by Chen Yunliang and his team of English teachers in Xie He Middle School, including three sets of English textbooks by three publishing houses in mainland, China; it consists of 300,000+ words)
SKELL (<https://skell.sketchengine.co.uk>)
- Duration: 40 minutes
- Lesson objectives: To help students understand the multiple meanings of the word “suggest”, summarize the patterns of its uses with corpus use and apply it in new situations. To enhance students’ awareness of understanding and use English words based on the context.

Commented [1]: Designer’s Tip:

This corpus is helpful in classroom teaching mainland in that it consists of the most influential three sets of English textbooks, and this means the concordance lines from this corpus will fit mainland students’ learning levels and free of any sensitive contents.

JOHN SNOW DEFEATS "KING CHOLERA"

John Snow was a famous doctor in London – so **expert**, indeed, that he **attended** Queen Victoria as her personal **physician**. But he became inspired when he thought about helping ordinary people **exposed** to cholera. This was the deadly disease of its day. Neither its cause nor its **cure** was understood. So many thousands of terrified people died every time there was an outbreak. John Snow wanted to face the **challenge** and solve this problem. He knew that cholera would never be controlled until its cause was found.



He became interested in two theories that possibly explained how cholera killed people. **The first suggested that cholera multiplied in the air.** A cloud of dangerous gas floated around until it found its victims. **The second suggested that people absorbed this disease into their bodies with their meals.** From the stomach the disease quickly attacked the body and soon the affected person died.

Stage 1: Notice the differences in pattern

1. Read the two sentences in the red boxes. Do you notice that in these two sentences, “**suggest**” is not used in the pattern “**suggest (that) sb. (should) do sth.**”? Are they mistakes? Exceptions? Or a new usage of “**suggest**”?

2. Observe the 15 concordance lines and complete activities A-C.

1 unday Telegraph. He **also suggested** that **the link** between intelligence and working late may be a hang-over from
2 i Leon, I would **definitely suggest** that **your friend** bring clothes for different seasons. In Beijing, the four seas
3 together. A: Our **evidence suggests** that **they did** wear clothes made from animal skins. We continue discovering tool
4 /hile is fine. Some **experts suggest** that **coffee should** be abolished from the diet but one cup a day is
5 ara killed people. The **first suggested** that **cholera multiplied** in the air. A cloud of dangerous gas floated around unt
6 hip," said Jim, but when I **suggested** that **we might** find something useful on the boat, he agreed to go. So
7 as soon as possible and I **suggest** that **you also** compensate me for the injuries that I have received. Unless I
8 From time to time **people suggest** that **extinct animals** like dinosaurs, can possibly be brought back to life throu
9 r does us good. **Research suggests** that **frequent laughter** strengthens our immune systems, and increases our chance
10 pening again, John **Snow suggested** that **the source** of all the water supplies be examined. The water companies were
11 In conclusion, the **survey suggests** that **the gender** of an interviewee influences their preferences in viewing sport
12 spare for the future. **They suggest** that **because people** are living longer, they ought to work longer, while governm
13 the room. I would like to **suggest** that **medical cloning** is not as simple an issue as my colleague claims. First
14 e the screen, So I'd like to **suggest** that **the seats** at the back be placed higher than those at the front
15 wly-united country. It **was suggested** that **they should** use a name like Australia. Australia is a word derived from

A. Classify the 15 concordance lines based on the verbs in “that clause”.

You can have discussion with your partner before you start to work.

Think about the questions:

Q1. Could you find the familiar pattern of “**suggest that sb. (should) do sth.**”? Do the rest of concordance lines belong to this pattern?

Q2. If not, how many patterns can the 15 concordance lines be classified into? (The first pattern has been done for you, but not completed yet. You may add more lines to the table if you want.)

Commented [2]: Designer's Tip:

Although activity A seems more difficult than activity B, activity A is arranged ahead of activity B. The reasons are as follows:

First, students' attention has been drawn to “that clause” at the beginning by the sentences from the text. Besides, as “suggest that sb. (should) do sth.” is a pattern that students are well familiar with, activity A is just one step further from what is familiar, and fits the Zone of Proximal Development. Moreover, activity B, though seems simple, is a preparation of activity C, and leads to students' discovery of the hidden connection of subject and verb, which is indeed what is new to students and is also one of the important language knowledge of this lesson.

No. of concordance lines	Verb pattern in "that clause"
Line 2 ...	sb. (should) do sth.
...	...

Suggested answers:

- Line 2, 4, 7, 10, 14 & 15 --- sb. (should) do sth. / sth. (should) be done
- Line 3, 5, 9 & 11 --- sb. / sth. + simple tense /
- Line 1, 6, 8, 12 --- sb. / sth + modal verb (not should) / + simple tense

B. Circle the subjects of the concordance lines and tick the correct one(s). (You may tick both if necessary)

Line 1	Sb. <input type="checkbox"/> Sth. <input type="checkbox"/>	Line 6	Sb. <input type="checkbox"/> Sth. <input type="checkbox"/>	Line 11	Sb. <input type="checkbox"/> Sth. <input type="checkbox"/>
Line 2	Sb. <input type="checkbox"/> Sth. <input type="checkbox"/>	Line 7	Sb. <input type="checkbox"/> Sth. <input type="checkbox"/>	Line 12	Sb. <input type="checkbox"/> Sth. <input type="checkbox"/>
Line 3	Sb. <input type="checkbox"/> Sth. <input type="checkbox"/>	Line 8	Sb. <input type="checkbox"/> Sth. <input type="checkbox"/>	Line 13	Sb. <input type="checkbox"/> Sth. <input type="checkbox"/>
Line 4	Sb. <input type="checkbox"/> Sth. <input type="checkbox"/>	Line 9	Sb. <input type="checkbox"/> Sth. <input type="checkbox"/>	Line 14	Sb. <input type="checkbox"/> Sth. <input type="checkbox"/>
Line 5	Sb. <input type="checkbox"/> Sth. <input type="checkbox"/>	Line 10	Sb. <input type="checkbox"/> Sth. <input type="checkbox"/>	Line 15	Sb. <input type="checkbox"/> Sth. <input type="checkbox"/>

C. Work together with your partner and compare your findings in activity A & C. Could you find some connection between the verb pattern and the subject?

Suggested answers:

- When the verb is in simple tense, the subject often refers to something.
- When there is a modal verb in the clause, the subject often refers to somebody.

Stage 2: Explore the patterns with corpus use

1. Explore the pattern of “sth. suggest that + simple tense” and complete activities A to D.

A. Study the 4 concordance lines and figure out the meaning of “**suggest**” in them. Does “**suggest**” mean putting forward an idea for someone to think about? If not what’s the meaning of “**suggest**” here?

together. A: Our **evidence suggests** that **they did** wear clothes made from animal skins. We continue discovering tool era killed people. The **first suggested** that **cholera multiplied** in the air. A cloud of dangerous gas floated around until it does us good. **Research suggests** that **frequent laughter** strengthens our immune systems, and increases our chance of survival. In conclusion, the **survey suggests** that **the gender** of an interviewee influences their preferences in viewing sport

Suggested answers:

- “suggest” in these lines means implying or indicating something or makes you think that it might be the case.

B. Read through the 20 examples from SKELL. Do you notice that simple tense is used in the “that clause”? Does “**suggest**” mean “**imply** or **indicate**”? Tick in the box if yes.

C. Read the 20 examples again, and circle the subjects that refer to something. Make a list of these subjects.

D. Combine your findings from activity B, what conclusion can you draw?

Suggested answers:

- “suggest” means “indicate or imply” in all the examples except example 2 and 9.
- The subject refers to something in all the examples except example 2 and 9. These subjects include: report, studies, trend, ideas, evidence, approach, argument, this, that, it.
- It can be concluded that when the subject refers to something like reports, studies and evidence, “suggest” often means “imply or indicate”, and the verb in the clause is often in simple tense.

Commented [3]: Designer’s tip:

For activity A, teacher should give students enough time to figure out the meaning of “suggest” by themselves. If students have difficulty, the teacher can ask students what verbs often go with the subjects “evidence”, “research” and “survey”.

- 1 The reports **suggest that** large numbers are sometimes involved.
- 2 He **suggested that** eight years was long enough.
- 3 The studies cited here **suggest that** newborns are fundamentally social creatures.
- 4 This **suggests that** emotional development begins very early.
- 5 Results **suggest that** both groups negatively perceived efficiency.
- 6 This again **suggests that** asteroids are very young.
- 7 Long-term trends **suggest that** economic optimism was highly volatile.
- 8 Certain currently popular speculative theoretical ideas **suggest that** .
- 9 I **suggest that** much more investigation is needed.
- 10 This **suggests that** training programmes are required.
- 11 Some studies **suggest that** stress makes acne worse.
- 12 Some early evidence **suggests that** comprehensive campaigns build strong unions.
- 13 Evidence strongly **suggests that** theory is wrong.
- 14 It is **suggested that** achieving positive customer experiences involves affirmative interactions.
- 15 This **suggest that** global growth may soon fade.
- 16 These approaches **suggest that** political ideology follows demographic forces.
- 17 This **suggests that** typical disagreements are dishonest.
- 18 A second argument **suggests that** power facilitates trade.
- 19 The report **suggested that** impeachment proceedings should cease altogether.
- 20 Evidence **suggests that** administering oxygen enhances memory function.

2. Explore the pattern of “sb. suggest that + modal verb / + simple tense” and answer question 1 to 3.

Focus on the only two examples with sb. as the subject in the above, and compare them with the following concordance lines.

Answer question 1 - 3:

Q1. Are they of the same pattern? If not, what other patterns can you figure out?

Q2. Does “suggest” all mean “giving advice”? If not what’s its meaning(s)?

Q3. Why are modal verbs like “may / might / can / ought to” used?

Sunday Telegraph. He **also suggested that** the link between intelligence and working late may be a hang-over from ship,” said Jim, but when I **suggested that** we **might** find something useful on the boat, he agreed to go. So from time to time **people suggest that** **extinct animals** like dinosaurs, can possibly be brought back to life through genetic engineering. **They suggest that** **because people** are living longer, they ought to work longer, while governments should encourage people to work longer. I would like to **suggest that** **medical cloning** is not as simple an issue as my colleague claims. First

Commented [4]: Designer’s tip:

For Q2 & 3:

Teacher should wait and give students enough time to figure out themselves the meaning of “suggest” and the reason of using other modal verbs than “should” in this pattern. If the students don’t have any clue, the teacher can invite them to judge: the content in the “that clause” is an idea put forward for people to consider, or something that is believed to be true?

Suggested answers:

- They are not of the same pattern. Pattern 1: sb. suggest that + simple tense; Pattern 2: sb. suggest that + modal verb (not “should”).
- “suggest” doesn’t mean “giving advice”. It means “to believe, think, or

guess”.

- Modal verbs like “may / might / can / ought to” are used because they convey how strong the subject believe in the case.

Stage 3: Summarize and consolidate:

1. Sum up what have been discovered and fill in the table (The first part has been done for you):

Form		Meaning of “suggest”	Examples from the corpus
Subject	that clause Verb pattern		
Sb.	(should) do sth.	Put forward a plan or idea	I would definitely suggest that your friend bring clothes for different seasons.

Suggested answers:

Form		Meaning of “suggest”	Examples from the corpus
Subject	that clause Verb pattern		
Sth.	use simple tense	indicate or imply	Our evidence suggests that they did wear colthes made from animal skins.
Sb.	may / might / can / ought to + Verb or use simple tense	believe, think or guess	They suggest that because people live longer, they ought to work longer. He suggested that eight years was long enough.

2. Read the sentences and match the meaning of "suggest" in each sentence:

- ① put forward a plan or idea
- ② indicate or imply
- ③ believe, think or guess

1. The reports **suggest** that large numbers are sometimes involved. ()
2. She **suggested** he take the cell phone but then remembered it was useless in the high mountains. ()

3. The studies **suggest** that the act created more than three million jobs. ()
4. Some historians **suggest** such suspicions had grounds. ()
5. The demographics **suggest** the Chinese market will peak along with population about 2040. ()
6. I would **suggest** that all college students should do their grocery shopping at Walmart. ()
7. He did not **suggest** that every variation and every character must have a "selection value". ()
8. Fred **suggested** that one of the letters might be in error. ()
9. New research into EQ **suggests** that success is not simply the result of a high IQ. ()
10. When Janet told him she was going to home-school Martha, Weller **suggested** rather firmly it might be a good idea if Martha went back to a more formal setting. ()
11. This expression **suggested** that she had resolved to endure her troubles uncomplainingly. ()
12. He **suggested** the center change their policy and not tape calls in the future. ()

Suggested answers:

1 - ②, 2 - ①, 3 - ②, 4 - ③, 5 - ②, 6 - ①,
7 - ③, 8 - ③, 9 - ②, 10 - ③, 11 - ②, 12 - ①

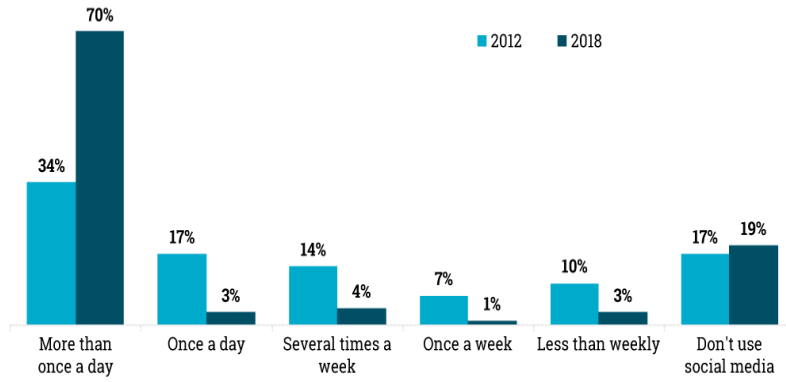
Stage 4: Apply it to a new situation:

1. Study the bar chart on the frequency of teen use of social media, and write down your findings and thinking based on the guided questions below. *Please try to make full use of the word "suggest" we learn today.*

Guided questions:

- Q1: What tendencies do the figures suggest?
- Q2: Why do you think there are such changes in the frequency?
- Q3: What suggestions do you have for those frequent teenage users?

Frequency of Teen Use of Social Media



Published on MarketingCharts.com in September 2018 | Data Source: Common Sense Media

2018 data based on a nationally representative survey of 1,141 13-17-year-olds in the US fielded online by GfK from March 22, 2018 - April 10, 2018.