

Task: Plan a Class Picnic



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Teacher: pre-task (Parts A–B) about 10 minutes, task cycle (Parts C–E) about 25 minutes, language focus (Parts F–G) about 15 minutes. While groups work, take notes on the language they reach for and get wrong, but do not interrupt unless communication breaks down. Save Parts F and G for after the report.

Your Task

Your class is planning a picnic for 24 people, including your teacher, and your group has a **budget** of $90. Plan the food, the drinks, the activities and what you will do if it rains. Your group will then present its plan to another group in 90 seconds, and the class will **vote** for the best plan.

Read the Model: Planning a Club Games Afternoon

Last month, Ana and Ken had to plan a games afternoon for the 12 students in their after-school club, and their teacher gave them a budget of $40. Before they started, they wrote their goal at the top of the page: everyone needed a snack, a drink and at least one game they could play together. Then they **discussed** their ideas and **compared** prices.

Ana: Why don't we buy pizza? A large pizza costs $12 and feeds four people, so three pizzas would feed all 12 of us.

Ken: I see your point, but three pizzas would cost $36, so we couldn't **afford** drinks or games. How about getting sandwiches? A box of 12 costs $14.

Ana: That's cheaper than pizza, although it's less exciting. If we buy the sandwiches, we'll have $26 left.

Ken: Then we could get a pack of 12 lemonades for $6 and two board games for $9 each.

Ana: Let me check: $14 for the sandwiches, $6 for the lemonade and $18 for the two games makes $38, so we'll still have $2 of **extra** money. Let's do it!

The next day, they presented their plan to another pair in 90 seconds. The other pair asked two questions: why they had chosen sandwiches instead of the pizza that Ana **suggested** first, and what they would do if someone didn't like the board games.

A. Pre-Task: Key Words

Match each word to its meaning. All ten words appear in the task box, the model or the task on page 3.

1. budget ____	a. something you do for fun or to learn
2. vote ____	b. to give someone an idea for them to think about
3. discuss ____	c. to look at two or more things to see how they are different
4. compare ____	d. happening inside a building
5. afford ____	e. to choose something by raising a hand or marking a paper
6. extra ____	f. to talk about something to share ideas or decide

7. suggest ____ g. to have enough money to pay for something
8. outdoor ____ h. more than you need or expected
9. activity ____ i. happening outside, not in a building
10. indoor ____ j. the amount of money you can spend on something



B. Pre-Task: Check the Model

Read the model again. Write T (true) or F (false). Check the math where you need to.

____ 1. Ana and Ken planned a games afternoon for 12 students.
____ 2. Their teacher gave them a budget of $90.
____ 3. Ana suggested buying pizza first.
____ 4. One large pizza feeds six people.
____ 5. Ken disagreed because three pizzas would leave too little money for drinks and games.
____ 6. A box of 12 sandwiches cost more than three large pizzas.
____ 7. After buying the sandwiches, Ana and Ken would have $26 left.
____ 8. Each board game cost $9.
____ 9. Their plan used all of their $40.
____ 10. The other pair asked them three questions.

C. The Task: Plan Your Picnic

Work in groups of three or four and use only English. Your teacher will listen and take notes but will not correct you during the task.

Rules: (1) All 24 people get one main food, one drink and some fruit. (2) Three students are vegetarian, which means they do not eat meat, so the plan needs vegetarian main food for at least three people. (3) Two students are allergic to nuts, so do not buy any food with nuts. (4) Plan at least one active **outdoor activity** and one quiet activity. (5) If it rains, the class can use the school gym for free, so write an **indoor** rain plan. (6) The total must be $90 or less.

Picnic Price List (the prices are made up for this task)			
Main food	Ham sandwiches: $15 for a box of 12	Veggie wraps (vegetarian): $9 for a box of 6	Rice balls (vegetarian): $12 for a box of 8
Drinks	Water: $5 for a pack of 12 bottles	Lemonade: $8 for a pack of 12 cans	
Fruit	Apples: $6 for a bag of 12	Watermelon: $6 for one (enough for 8 people)	
Snacks	Peanut cookies (contain nuts): $4 for a bag of 12	Popcorn (no nuts): $5 for a bag (enough for 12 people)	
Activities	Active: frisbee $6, kite $10, soccer ball $12	Quiet: card game $7, board game $15	

C. The Task (continued): Our Plan

Fill in your plan. Check the rules and your math before you report.

What we will buy	How many	Serves how many people?	Cost
			$
			$
			$
			$
			$
			$
			$
		Total	$
		Money left (from $90)	$

Rain plan: If it rains, we will

_____.

D. Planning: Prepare Your 90-Second Pitch

Write notes, not a full script, and decide who presents each part.

1. Our main food and why:

   _____

2. How we followed the rules for vegetarian students and nuts:

   _____

3. Our activities and rain plan:

   _____

4. Our total and money left: $_____ / $_____

E. Report: Present and Ask

Present your plan to another group in 90 seconds. Then listen to their pitch and ask two clarifying questions.

1. Their total: $_____ Did they follow all six rules? Yes / No. If not, which rule did they miss? _____
2. Our two questions (for example, "Why did you choose ___ instead of ___?" or "What will you do if ___?"):

   _____

3. Class vote: the best plan came from group _____ because

   _____.

F. Language Focus 1: Suggest, Disagree and Predict

Do this part after the report. Fill in each blank with a phrase from the Word Bank, using each one once.

Word Bank: Why don't we, How about, could, will have, I see your point, cheaper, afford

1. "_____ buy rice balls? They are vegetarian."
2. "_____ getting a kite for the outdoor activity?"
3. "We _____ play the card game in the gym if it rains."

4. A pack of water costs $5 and a pack of lemonade costs $8, so water is _____ than lemonade.

5. "If we buy the board game for $15 instead of the card game for $7, we _____ $8 less for snacks."

6. "_____, but popcorn is safer than peanut cookies for the two students with a nut allergy."

7. "We can't _____ the board game, because we only have $10 left."

G. Language Focus 2: Use It and Fix It

Answer in full sentences. For questions 3–5, write the correct sentence and explain the rule.

1. Compare the cost of feeding 24 people with two boxes of ham sandwiches and with three boxes of rice balls. Which costs less, and by how much?
2. Why can't a group buy only ham sandwiches for the main food? Use the rules in your answer.
3. Fix the mistake: "If we will buy the soccer ball, we will have $6 left."
4. Fix the mistake: "How about buy popcorn instead of cookies?"
5. Make this reply polite, and give a reason with a number from the price list: "No. Your idea is bad. Kites are too expensive."

H. After the Task: Think Back

Discuss with your group, then share with the class.

1. Which group's plan won the class vote, and what made it the strongest?
2. Which phrases from Part F did you use during the task? Which ones did you need but not know?
3. Think of a real event at your school, such as a sports day or a class party. With a partner, set a budget, compare two options and present a plan in 90 seconds.



Answer Key

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A. Key Words: 1-j, 2-e, 3-f, 4-c, 5-g, 6-h, 7-b, 8-i, 9-a, 10-d

B. Check the Model: 1-T, 2-F ($40), 3-T, 4-F (four people), 5-T, 6-F (the sandwiches cost $14 and three pizzas would cost $36), 7-T ($40 − $14 = $26), 8-T, 9-F ($38 spent, $2 left), 10-F (two questions)

C–E. Task, Planning and Report: Plans will vary. Check all six rules: 24 main foods, 24 drinks and fruit for 24; vegetarian food for at least three; no peanut cookies; one active and one quiet activity; a rain plan; a total of $90 or less. A sample plan that works: 1 box of ham sandwiches ($15) and 2 boxes of veggie wraps ($18), which make 24 main foods with 12 of them vegetarian; 2 packs of water ($10); 2 bags of apples ($12); a frisbee ($6); a card game ($7); and 2 bags of popcorn ($10). The total is $78, so $12 is left. Rain plan: "If it rains, we will eat in the gym and play the card game."

F. Language Focus 1: 1-Why don't we, 2-How about, 3-could, 4-cheaper, 5-will have, 6-I see your point, 7-afford

G. Language Focus 2:

1. Two boxes of ham sandwiches cost $30 (2 × $15) and three boxes of rice balls cost $36 (3 × $12), so the sandwiches cost $6 less.
2. Three students are vegetarian, and ham is meat, so the group must also buy vegetarian food, such as veggie wraps or rice balls, for at least three people.
3. "If we buy the soccer ball, we will have $6 left." In a first conditional, the if-part uses the present simple, and will goes only in the result part.
4. "How about buying popcorn instead of cookies?" After "How about," use a noun or a verb with -ing.
5. Answers will vary, for example, "I see your point, but a kite costs $10, so we might not have enough money for popcorn." (Agree with the idea first, then give a reason.)

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