



PLANNING AHEAD



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:

18QB-5MEG-LEQ



1

Key phrases

Match the words in the first two columns to complete the expressions:

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. go for | a check-up | → | to take a medical examination to test your health |
| 2. settle | a date | → | to meet someone in order to start a romantic relationship |
| 3. go on | an interview | → | to meet someone in order to see if you are suitable for a job or course |
| 4. attend | the bill | → | to pay the bill, e.g. in a restaurant |
| 5. refresh | to hospital | → | be allowed to enter a hospital because you need medical care |
| 6. be admitted | your CV | → | to include the most recent information on your CV |

In pairs, ask and answer questions using the collocations above, e.g. *When did you last settle the bill?*





2

Find the information

Read the article on the next page on how to plan your week, and fill in Simon's diary with the entries below, using the advice and information in the text.

date with Anne

do weekly shopping

job interview

prepare tax return form

refresh cv

test drive new car





How to live your life by numbers

Whether you're starting a romantic relationship or going for a hospital check-up, it is helpful to have a statistical approach to organising your week.

1. MONDAY

One way to improve your Mondays: avoid job interviews. Recruitment advisers say employers are more open-minded later in the week. Interviews held on a Monday are also more likely to be the first interviews held for a particular job, which could reduce the chances of success; one study by the "executive search" industry in the US found that the person who attends the first interview gets the job 17.6 per cent of the time, compared to 56 per cent for the person who attends the last interview.

2. TUESDAY

Tuesday is the day to get important jobs done. A study published last month by the US Society of Industrial Psychology said our rational "left" brain dominates thinking early in the week, better for routine, non-social jobs like refreshing a CV or planning a presentation.

3. WEDNESDAY

Wednesday is the day for starting a romantic relationship, according to a survey of 8,000 single people by an online dating site. Forty-one per cent of respondents to the survey said the best day for a first date is a Wednesday. The reason, apparently, is Thursday. After a successful date both parties get a day's breathing space, but they don't have to wait long before a second meeting on Friday night. Additionally, a "busy" Thursday at work is a convenient excuse to settle the bill and leave.

4. THURSDAY

The fourth day of the week is the worst day to be admitted to hospital. A report released last week by the Institute of Public Policy Research found that people who go into hospital on a Thursday stay longer. The 180,000 people admitted on a Thursday in the past year stayed an average 6.3 days, compared

to 5.5 days for a Saturday and 5.3 days for a Sunday. The main reason is that Thursday patients who need just two or three days of treatment are less likely to be released during the weekend, when there is less hospital staff. This "weekend effect" required an extra 500 beds over the year.

5. FRIDAY

Thank God it's Friday - or so they say. The end of the working week should result in celebration, but Friday is statistically a bad day. It's also an unlucky day, because of superstition on Friday 13th.

But a fear of Fridays is not always irrational. Statistically, it is the worst day to drive. A study published last November by Continental Tyres found that road accidents tend to happen more frequently on Fridays than other days. According to the report, this was due to various factors, including end-of-week tiredness and heavy traffic.

6. SATURDAY

If Wednesday is the best day for a first date, then Saturday is the day to get married (unless you're Jewish). Government statistics for England and Wales show that in 2003, 61 per cent of the total 270,109 marriages took place on a Saturday (with only 3 per cent on a Tuesday - the least popular day).

7. SUNDAY

For those not at a Jewish wedding, Sunday could be the best day to hit the supermarket. A recent survey by "field marketing agency" FDS showed that availability of a wide range of products was at its highest (98 per cent) on Sundays. Empty shelves are more likely on Mondays when availability fell to a low of 94 per cent.

Adapted from The Independent, 03 January 2007, by Simon Usborne



3 Find the word

Find a word or phrase in the text which means:

1. ready to consider new ideas and opinions (**adj., P1**)
2. has control over (**verb, P2**)
3. people who answer requests for information, e.g. in a survey (**noun pl., P3**)
4. a reason that you give someone to explain why you did something wrong (**noun, P3**)
5. allowed to leave (a hospital, prison etc.) (**verb -ed, P4**)
6. people who work in a hospital (**uncountable noun, P4**)
7. needed (**P4**)
8. an irrational belief which is considered true but is unscientific (**noun, P5**)
9. a choice or variety of things (**noun, P7**)

4 Expressing probability

Look at how the following verbs and phrases are used in the text to express probability:

be likely to + INFINITIVE

Interviews held on a Monday are also more likely to be the first interviews held for a particular job.

should + INFINITIVE

The end of the working week should result in celebration, but Friday is statistically a bad day.

tend to + INFINITIVE

A study published last November by Continental Tyres found that road accidents tend to happen more frequently on Fridays than other days.

could + INFINITIVE

For those not at a Jewish wedding, Sunday could be the best day to hit the supermarket.

Here are some other structures for expressing probability:

be certain to + INFINITIVE

You are certain to pass the exam if you study hard.

be unlikely to + INFINITIVE

People who study hard are unlikely to fail their exams.

be certain not to + INFINITIVE

He is certain not to get the job now after insulting his potential boss at the interview.

might + INFINITIVE: *Don't drive so fast. You might have a nasty accident.*

be bound to + INFINITIVE

It was a wise decision to go to England for a few months. Your English is bound to improve.



Which of the verbs and expressions indicate that something is ...

1. certain? be certain to + INFINITIVE
2. very likely?
3. likely?
4. possible?
5. unlikely?
6. very unlikely/impossible?

Which verb/expression means 'have a tendency to happen or behave in a certain way'?

Complete the following sentences with a suitable word or expression from the previous exercise:

1. Don't go outside in the cold with wet hair. You _____ get ill.
2. Women _____ live longer than men. According to scientists, this is due to genetics.
3. Newspapers _____ become free in the future because of competition from the Internet.
4. The politician _____ win the election since he is becoming increasingly unpopular with young voters.
5. He _____ fail his exams because of his laziness and lack of motivation.
6. You _____ put on weight if you carry on eating like that.
7. He has practiced very hard. He _____ be ready for his driving exam.
8. Young drivers _____ have more accidents than older drivers.
9. Tim has never been to China before. He _____ understand the language.
10. This weekend is going to be very cold, so I _____ go out.

5

Expressions with 'chance'

We use words such as 'good', 'fair', 'slight', 'little', 'no', 'any' etc. with 'chance' to describe different degrees of probability. Study the examples. Which two structures are possible?

We are organising a big party, so you have **a good chance of** meeting someone interesting.

John doesn't have any plans for tomorrow, so **there's a good chance that** he will come to our party.

If you hurry, you have **a fair chance of** catching the bus.

The sky is very cloudy. There's **a fair chance that** it will rain tonight.

My train tends to be delayed often, so there's **a slight chance that** I could be late tomorrow.

The manager is very busy today so there's **little chance of** meeting him.

You **have no chance of** beating Sam. He has trained for 10 years more than you.

Is there any chance you could call me at lunch time?



Rewrite the sentences below with an expression with 'chance'.

1. You are unlikely to win the race.
2. John is very talented. He is likely to have a successful career.
3. I might have to go to London this weekend.
4. Germany could win the World Cup this time.
5. Larry is certain not to come to the party.
6. Could you possibly lend me five dollars?

6**Speaking**

In pairs, choose three topics from the list below and discuss what is likely or unlikely to happen in each case:

1. the next football World Cup
2. the next parliamentary or presidential elections in your country or elsewhere
3. the current financial crisis
4. future technology
5. the environment
6. your career or studies
7. another sporting event of your choice