

Creating a study group

Listen to the conversation about creating a study group to practise and improve your listening skills.

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–f) with the vocabulary (1–6).

Vocabulary

1. to learn something by heart
2. annoyed
3. go ahead
4. an assignment
5. a moderator
6. a compromise

Definition

- a. a piece of work given to someone, normally as part of their studies or job
- b. an agreement in which people in an argument reduce or change what they are asking for in order to agree
- c. an informal expression used to give someone permission to start doing something
- d. irritated, angry
- e. to learn something so that you can say it from memory
- f. a manager of a public discussion

Tasks

Task 1

Circle the best answer.

1. There are _____ who can do the first meeting of the study group.
 - a. four students
 - b. three students
 - c. five students

2. They don't want to meet in their current place because ...
 - a. they aren't allowed to be there.
 - b. they don't want to talk to other people.
 - c. they might disturb other people.

3. They decide to meet ...
 - a. next to the cafeteria.
 - b. in the library.
 - c. next to the study hall.

4. They have another seminar ...
 - a. at the same time as study group.
 - b. every week on a Thursday.
 - c. every two weeks on a Thursday.

5. How long will their study group be?
 - a. one hour
 - b. one hour and a half
 - c. two hours

6. Their final exam ...
 - a. is very soon.
 - b. has passed.
 - c. isn't for some time.

Task 2

Match the expressions with *way* (1–5) with their meanings (a–e).

Expression with way

1. find a way
2. way off
3. there's no way
4. go away
5. in a big way

Meaning

- a. it's impossible
- b. make something possible
- c. leave
- d. very much
- e. a long time from now

Discussion

Have you ever created a study group? What are your tips?

Transcript

Ali: Hey, you guys, I've been looking for you. I've got an idea – a study group. What do you think? Are you interested?

Dina: Yes! I need a study group, in a big way.

Bea: Me too.

Ali: Do you think we have enough people here for a study group? I mean, there are only four of us ...

Bea: Sorry. Three of us. Chris can't do study group. Right, Chris?

Chris: Yeah, there's no way I can do a study group. I have an assignment and then I'm too busy. But I'll stay for this first meeting.

Ali: Should we try and get another group together with us for this?

Bea: No, I don't think so. I think three is fine. Ideal size, really.

Dina: Me too.

Ali: OK, three people then. Four people for the first meeting. What next?

Bea: What about a meeting place? We can't meet here in the library ...

Ali: It's not too bad, especially if those other people would go away.

Bea: But we can't exactly ask them to leave, and people might get annoyed with us talking.

Dina: Can I say something here?

Ali: Sure, go ahead.

Dina: There's a study hall next to the cafeteria. It's almost always empty. Could we meet there?

Ali: A study hall?! Who knew? Well, it sounds good to me.

Bea: Yeah. I've never been there but ...

Ali: So, we ought to decide how long for and how often.

Dina: I read somewhere that you should make the meeting at the same time each week. Like a seminar. That way we'd take it more seriously.

Bea: We may as well make it for this time since we're all here. Is this time OK?

Dina: Works for me.

Ali: Me too.

Chris: Hang on just a minute. I know I'm not going to be in this group, but aren't we supposed to have a seminar at this time every other week?

Ali: Umm, no.

Bea: Thursday, no?

Ali: No, that's on Thursday.

Chris: Sorry. Forget I said anything.

Ali: Don't worry about it.

Bea: So everyone agrees that this time is fine? Every week?

Ali: How long should we make it?

Bea: An hour?

Dina: Could we find a way of making it two hours?

Ali: Two hours seems a bit like ... too much. To start with then?

Bea: Ninety minutes? Compromise?

Ali: Is that OK with you, Dina?

Dina: Fine by me.

Ali: OK, so I guess all we have left to decide is exactly what we'll do when we meet. The final exam is a way off. I guess we could review our notes, or practise learning things by heart.

Dina: I have a list of dos and don'ts actually that I got online. I could be a moderator, and we could use the ideas as a starting point ...

Answers

Preparation task

1. e
2. d
3. c
4. a
5. f
6. b

Task 1

1. a
2. c
3. a
4. c
5. b
6. c

Task 2

1. b
2. e
3. a
4. c
5. d