Adapted Personal Dilemma Dialog and Advice-Giving Expressions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Step 1: With a partner, read the following dialog aloud twice, switching parts after the first time.

Alan: How’s your job-hunting going?

Alison: Pretty good. I just got two offers. One from G&P Plastics and another from Mush Cosmetics. It’s a really   
 difficult choice.

Alan: Wow, well done! *Of course you are going to choose Mush right?* G&P are a plastics company. *Ugh!*

Alison: Well it’s not that simple a decision. And anyway, what’s wrong with plastic? *YOU use it everyday*, like everyone else.

Alan: I only use recycled plastics, Alison. Also, *don’t you know* that Mush Cosmetics have won awards for the environmentally   
 friendly handmade soap? The CEO is a woman committed to reducing plastic waste. *You would be making a big   
 mistake to reject that offer*.

Alison: Do you really think so? In fact I am seriously thinking of taking the offer from G&P Plastics.

Alan: *Are you joking?* Don’t you know that they are famous for promoting “one use” plastic goods like straws and throwaway   
 plastic coffee stirrers. They are a *terrible company. If I were you, I would never consider* G&P.

Alison: Well all companies have to make money, Alan. It’s a very difficult choice for me. You know I need a high-paying job and   
 G&P pay at least 30% more salary.

Alan: *I can’t believe you are throwing away a chance to work* at a really good company like Mush. If you work for Mush,   
 your job will be much more creative and you will feel good about yourself. I *strongly* suggest that you accept their offer   
 before you lose the chance.

Alison: I appreciate your advice, but I need to earn a high salary because I have a lot of student loans to pay. *Your parents   
 paid for your university fees*. You can take a job with a company like Mush. I can’t afford less salary just to work for a   
 company that has a good image. And anyway, I might be someone who helps make G&P more responsible in the future.

Alan: *Whatever you do Alison, don’t take a job with a company that doesn’t care about the environment. Your friends,   
 including me, will be so disappointed in you.*

Alison: *I can’t help that, Alan*. This is my decision alone.

Step 2: Go over the following advice-giving language with your teacher. If you need, write down the meanings   
 in Japanese. Rate them by levels of politeness: ***Rude - A bit too direct - Gentle - Very gentle***.

| Advice giving language | Rude | A bit too direct | Gentle | Very gentle |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (I think/I really think) you need to/must/should consider… |  |  |  |  |
| How about…? |  |  |  |  |
| It is usually a good idea to… |  |  |  |  |
| My suggestion/advice is (to)… |  |  |  |  |
| Why don't you…? |  |  |  |  |
| Have you tried…? |  |  |  |  |
| I (would) (strongly) suggest/advise that… |  |  |  |  |
| If I was/were you, I'd… |  |  |  |  |
| In my experience, … works really well. |  |  |  |  |
| It's generally best/a good idea to… |  |  |  |  |
| One thing you could/should/ do is… |  |  |  |  |
| Make sure you (don't)… |  |  |  |  |
| The sooner you… the better. |  |  |  |  |
| Whatever you do, … |  |  |  |  |
| Your best/only option is to… |  |  |  |  |

Step 3: With your partner, rewrite the conversation from Step 1. Change the harsh expressions to softer,   
 more polite ones. After you finish writing, read the softer version aloud a few times.

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