# Vocabulary Handout: Everyday Problems & Solutions

## Part 1: Describing Common Problems

### **My car broke down.** (My car stopped working.)

### **I missed the bus/train.** (The bus/train left before I arrived.)

### **My phone battery died.** / **My phone is dead.** (There is no power in my phone.)

### **I lost my keys/wallet/phone.** (I can't find my keys/wallet/phone.)

### **I spilled coffee/tea/water on...** (I accidentally knocked over my drink.)

### **The internet is not working.** / **The Wi-Fi is down.**

### **My computer crashed.** (My computer suddenly stopped working.)

### **I have a flat tire.** (The air is out of one of my car's tires.)

### **I'm locked out.** (I can't get into my house/car because I don't have the key.)

### **I ran out of milk/sugar/time.** (I have no more milk/sugar/time left.)

### **It's too noisy.** (The sound level is very high and bothering me.)

### **I have a headache/stomachache/cold.** (Describing a physical ailment.)

### **I'm having trouble with...** (e.g., ...this machine, ...understanding this.)

### **This is frustrating!** (This situation makes me feel annoyed because I can't change or achieve what I want.)

### **It's so annoying!** (This is making me feel a little angry or impatient.)

### **What a hassle!** (This is inconvenient and troublesome.)

## Part 2: Expressing Feelings About Problems

### I feel **stressed**.

### I feel **worried**.

### I feel **annoyed**.

### I feel **frustrated**.

### I feel **helpless**. (I feel like I can't do anything to fix the problem.)

### I'm **upset**.

## Part 3: Asking for Advice or Help

### What should I do?

### What do you think I should do?

### Do you have any ideas?

### Can you help me (with this)?

### Could you give me some advice?

### I don't know what to do.

## Part 4: Suggesting Solutions & Giving Advice

### **Maybe you could...** (e.g., Maybe you could call a friend.)

### **Why don't you...?** (e.g., Why don't you try restarting it?)

### **How about + verb-ing...?** (e.g., How about taking a taxi?)

### **You should (try to)...** (e.g., You should try to stay calm.)

### **You could (try to)...** (e.g., You could ask your neighbor for help.)

### **You might want to...** (e.g., You might want to check the lost and found.)

### **If I were you, I would...** (e.g., If I were you, I would call customer service.)

### **Have you thought about...?** (e.g., Have you thought about looking online for solutions?)

### **It might be a good idea to...** (e.g., It might be a good idea to take a break.)

### **One thing you could do is...**

## Example Mini-Dialogue:

### **Person A:** Oh no! My phone battery just died, and I'm waiting for an important call!

###  **Person B:** That's frustrating. **Maybe you could** ask to borrow someone's charger?

### **Person A:** That's a good idea. **Do you have any ideas** where I could find one?

### **Person B:** **How about checking** at the cafe next door? They sometimes have chargers.

### **Person A:** Okay, **I'll try that.** Thanks!