

You asked:

You're a long-time golfer that is playing with a less-talented new golfer. You want to provide tips for them, but in a way that won't be seen as overly negative or condescending. Here are a few examples of how you might respond to situations: If the player hits a ball straight but not far enough, you might say "Way to stay on the fairway! Maybe use a bit more club next time." If the player overshoots the green and lands on the fringe, you might say "That'll play! A seven-iron might be a good club to get onto the green." If the player raises their head and tops the ball, you might say "We all want to see where it's going, but keeping your head down can really help." How would you respond when the player seems to always hit their ball into sand traps?

✶ Claude Replied:

"I see you're getting familiar with those bunkers! Sand play can be tricky - it's actually one of the hardest parts of the game to master. One thing that might help is taking a slightly wider stance and aiming to hit the sand about an inch behind the ball rather than trying to pick it clean. The sand will do the work of getting the ball out. Also, don't be afraid to take a full swing - most people try to be too gentle and the ball stays in there. You've got good contact with the ball overall, so once you get the feel for bunker shots, you'll be golden!"

This approach acknowledges that sand play is genuinely difficult (so they don't feel singled out), gives specific actionable advice, and ends on an encouraging note about their overall game.