

RELATIONSHIPS

2 Neighbours

LEARNING AIMS

- Can understand degrees of politeness and formality
- Can describe antisocial behaviour
- Can resolve disputes

- Lead-in**
- 1 Work with a partner and describe your neighbours. Include this information:
 - Who they are
 - What they do
 - How you get on with them
 - Whether you've ever had any problems with them

Neighbours from hell

Listening and vocabulary



- 1 You are going to listen to a news item from a local radio station in Brighton. Match these words from the news item to the definitions.

1 sue	a period of time instead of prison when your behaviour is checked
2 obsessed	b possible or likely
3 swear	c annoying or unpleasant behaviour towards someone
4 conviction	d use deliberately offensive or unpleasant language
5 harassment	e make a legal claim against someone
6 potential	f decision by a court that someone is guilty of a crime
7 probation	g thinking about something all the time in a way that others consider extreme
- 2 Work with a partner. Look at the photo and the words in Ex 1. Predict what you think the news story will be about.
- 3 16 Listen to the story and check your predictions.
- 4 Listen again and tick what Mr Rogers did to the Thomases.

1 Swear at their guests	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Throw old furniture into their garden	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Break their bicycle	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Throw bits of wood at their windows	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Sing insulting songs	<input type="checkbox"/>
- 5 Answer these questions.
 - 1 Why did Mr Rogers start this 'campaign of hate'?
 - 2 What happened in December?
 - 3 What information do the Thomases have to give to potential buyers of their house?
 - 4 What are the Thomases planning to do if they lose money on the sale of their house?
- 6 Work in a small group and discuss these questions.
 - 1 The news item tells us the Thomases' version of events. What do you think Mr Rogers' side of the story is?
 - 2 How do you think the Thomases could have avoided this problem?
 - 3 How would you resolve this problem so that both sides are happy?

LANGUAGE STUDY

Degrees of politeness and formality

- 1 Look at these requests. Which one is the most polite and formal? Which one is the most informal?
Can you move your car? Could you move your car? I was wondering if you could move your car.
- 2 Look at the examples in Ex 1 again. When we want to be more polite or formal do we use present tense verb forms or past tense verb forms?
- 3 If we want to be particularly polite or formal we can use an introductory phrase, and sometimes this changes the word order of the rest of the sentence. What is the introductory phrase in the examples in Ex 1?
I'm very sorry, but one of our guests parked in front of your house. One of our guests parked in front of your house.

Grammar reference page 59

NOTE

It's important to be polite, but if you are too formal with friends, people may think you are being unfriendly or insincere.

- 5 Work with a partner. Look at these questions and statements. Which are the most and least polite / formal? Think about the use of past tense forms and introductory phrases. Discuss your ideas.
 - 1 a I wondered if you would turn the music down.
b Will you turn the music down?
c Would you turn the music down?
 - 2 a Can you explain why you are so angry?
b Could you explain why you are so angry?
c I was wondering if you could explain why you are so angry.
 - 3 a I'd be very grateful if you'd stop shouting, please.
b I'd like you to stop shouting, please.
c Will you stop shouting, please?
 - 4 a Would you mind if I organised a party?
b Do you mind if I organise a party?
c Can I organise a party?
 - 5 a Is it alright if I invite some friends round?
b I wonder if you would mind if I invited some friends round.
c Would you mind if I invited some friends round?
- 6 What would you say in each situation? Discuss your ideas. If:
 - 1 you felt hot in the classroom and the teacher was near the window
 - 2 you saw a ten-year-old boy swearing at an old lady / man
 - 3 you had a headache and your normally friendly neighbour was playing his electric guitar loudly
 - 4 you were annoyed because a stranger wanted to tell you their life story on the bus
- 7 Complete these sentences with the phrases in the box. Sometimes there is more than one possible answer.

I apologise for (+-ing)	I'm afraid that	I'm sorry, but	Well, actually
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 - 1 _____ I can't come this evening.
 - 2 _____ forgetting to ring you last night.
 - 3 _____ I haven't been able to finish tidying up.
 - 4 _____ not inviting you to my party.
 - 5 _____ I have an appointment with a lawyer this evening.
 - 6 _____ Mr Taylor isn't here at the moment.



We don't get on

Reading 1  17 Read the magazine article and answer these questions.

- 1 Who does most of the housework?
- 2 What's a slob?
- 3 Who annoys Matt the most? Why?
- 4 Who's the most popular?
- 5 Who's going to stay in the house next year?

2 Make a list of the adjectives used to describe each person in the text.

Example: Carl: *untidy*

MY HOUSEMATES

are slob!



They met in their first year at university and decided to rent a house together to save money. Now, at the end of their second year, we asked students Matt, Jenny, and Carl to say what they thought of their housemates, and whether they'd stay in the same house for another year.

Last year we were all great friends, but it's amazing what you find out about each other when you live in the same house for a year! I mean for me, I always assumed that Carl and Jenny would clear up after themselves, and not leave the bathroom or kitchen in a mess – that sort of thing. I'm quite shocked at how untidy they are. I do most of the tidying up because they're complete slob!

I still like Carl.

He's really generous, and he's got a great sense of humour. But he's impossible to live with. Jenny's OK, but she's a bit selfish. She does annoying things like invite her friends round late at night, and they make a lot of noise. She's the kind of person that never buys any bread, tea or coffee. When it runs out it's always me that has to do the shopping. I've decided to move out at the end of the year.

Since we moved in, Matt has become really bad-tempered and bossy. I think he likes to think that he's mature, but I think he takes life too seriously. It's true that he does more than his fair share of the housework, but he exaggerates and complains the whole time, too. He never notices when I do things like defrost the fridge or do the hoovering. Carl's great. I think he enjoys life and just gets on with it. The only thing about him that annoys me is that he's quite unreliable. He's always leaving the house without closing the windows or locking the door properly. He's very forgetful in that way.



Do I do my share of the housework? No, but that's because I don't have a share! Matt likes to boast about how much he does – so I let him get on with it. Well, I suppose I do a little bit. I usually take the rubbish out, but not until the bin is completely full! Life's too short to have arguments the whole time. Look, there are times when it depresses me to come down for breakfast and see Jenny's washing up from the night before still in the sink. But I just ask her to wash it up, and she's OK about it. Overall I get on really well with her because she's always cheerful, and I like her friends, too. I think we'll both stay here for another year.



3 Make a list of the jobs that each of the students does around the house.

4 Work with a partner and discuss these questions.

- 1 Would you share a house with any of these students? Why? / Why not?
- 2 What types of behaviour described in the article would annoy you?
- 3 What are the most important qualities of a housemate?

Pronunciation and speaking

1  18 Listen and mark the stressed words. Which words are stressed and why?

Example: *Last night you left the bathroom in a mess.*

- 1 I always do your share of the housework.
- 2 Can you take the rubbish out tonight?

2  19 Listen and repeat the sentences.

- 1 You never clear up after yourself.
- 2 You always leave your things lying around.
- 3 Please don't leave your dishes in the sink.
- 4 Could you remember to switch the lights off before you go out?
- 5 I wondered if you could defrost the fridge this week.

3 Work with a partner. You are going to discuss a complaint between two housemates who don't get on well. Use Ex 1 to help you choose a complaint. Plan your argument. Decide:

- What type of characters you are (bad-tempered, bossy, etc.)
- When the problem started and how long it's been going on
- Whether this is the first time you've discussed the problem
- Which of you will start the conversation and how the other will respond

4 Discuss your complaint.

5 Work with a partner. Two students have recently moved into a shared house together. Student A turn to page 61. Student B turn to page 64.

Writing

1 Write a note to a friend about the discussion you had in pronunciation and speaking Ex 4 from your point of view. Write about 150 words. Include this information:

- The background to the situation: what the problem was and who was involved
- What happened during the discussion
- How you feel about the result
- Your feelings about your housemate now

