READING AND SPEAKING

Problem page

1 These problems come from a newspaper column where people write in with a problem, and other members of the public give their advice. Read the problems. What advice would you give?

2 Match the readers' letters to these problems. There are two for each problem.

DILEMMAS

with **Vanessa Goodman**

THIS WEEK'S PROBLEMS

Do I have to act my age?

Polly is 47. She is single, and her children have left home. She is very successful in her career, and has a lot of friends, but she isn't satisfied. She longs to change her life. She wants to live abroad, paint, and write poetry, but her friends tell her she should stop being silly and act her age.

a ☐ ☐

Must I be a slave to my mobile?

Jason's company has bought him a mobile phone. They want him to keep it on all the time, so that they can contact him anywhere, anytime. He dislikes the idea of always being available, and he hates the way people use mobiles to have private conversations in public.

b ☐ ☐

Should I throw my son out?

Sarah's 24-year-old son lives at home, stays in bed till late, and watches TV all day. He buys and sells drugs. He's clever, but he dropped out of school. He's never had a job. His father wants to throw him out, but Sarah worries that he could get further into drugs and end up in prison.

c ☐ ☐

READERS' ADVICE

1 Children always need the support of their parents, whether they're four or 24. I think you should pay for him to get some qualifications, and when he's ready, ___ to find somewhere to live. Meanwhile, ___ him all the love that he needs.

Jenny Torr
Brighton

2 I decided to give it all up and change my life dramatically three years ago. Since then, ___ the most exciting three years of my life. It can be scary, but if you don't do it, you won't know what you've missed. I don't think ___ . Go for it.

Mike Garfield
Manchester

3 He's using you. I think ___ . It's time for him to go. Twenty-four is too old to be living with his parents. He's got to take responsibility for himself. And ___ about his drug-taking. Sometimes you have to be cruel to be kind.

Tony Palmer
Harrow

4 Why ___ it? He isn't their slave, they don't own him. And I also can't stand the way people use their mobiles in restaurants, on trains and buses. They think that the people around them are invisible and can't hear. ___ .

Jane Sands
London

5 I think ___ before she gives up her job and goes to live abroad. Does she think that the sun will always shine? If there is something in her life that makes her unhappy now, this will follow her. She should take her time ___ .

Nigella Lawnes
Bristol

6 ___ ! He should have a word with his company and come to an arrangement with them. Why can't he turn it off sometimes? Mobile phones are great, and if he's got one for free, ___ . They are one of the best inventions ever.

Pete Hardcastle
Birmingham

3 Where do these lines go? Put a letter in the gaps.

a … you should tell him to leave home.
b … she should be very careful …
c … you should help him …
d … you should worry.
e He must keep it!
f … before making a decision.
g It is so rude.
h … he's very lucky.
i I have had…
j … you must tell the police …
k … you've got to give …
l … should he accept …

T 8.5 Listen and check.

4 Which letter writer … ?

- suggests waiting
- thinks love is the answer
- has been adventurous
- thinks that employers shouldn't exploit their employees
- loves mobile phones
- suggests being tough

The readers make very different suggestions. Who do you agree with?

What do you think?

- How old are children when they leave home in your country?
- What do you think of people who use mobile phones in public?
- Do you think older people should act their age? Why/Why not?
- 'You have to be cruel to be kind'. Can you think of an example?

Roleplay

With a partner, choose a situation and roleplay the conversation.

- Polly and one of her friends
- Jason and his boss
- Sarah and her husband

Group work

In groups, write a letter to a problem page.

Exchange your letters and write a reply. Try to express sympathy with the problem and give some explanation, as well as practical advice.

VOCABULARY

Words that go together

1 Many verbs and nouns go together.

tell a story *leave home*

Look at the chart on the right. Match a verb with a complement. They all appear in the letters and problems on p66–67.

Look at the letters again and check your answers.

2 Close your books. Try to remember the sentences that include the phrases from the box.

3 Two nouns can go together. There are no rules about spelling.

post office headache horse-race

The stress is usually on the first word.

Match the nouns to make new words.

alarm	cream
car	glasses
traffic	table
credit	coat
ice	lights
sun	card
time	park
rain	clock

hair	case
sun	drier
ear	quake
sign	post
book	ring
rush	lighter
cigarette	set
earth	hour

T 8.6 Listen and check.

4 Choose a word and give a definition to the class. Can they guess the word?

You use it to pay for things.

A credit card.

That's right.

Verbs	Complements
live	being silly
write	your age
stop	abroad
act	responsibility
take	poetry
take	your job
stay	what you've missed
don't know	a word with someone
have to be	in bed
give up	your time
have	cruel to be kind

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

At the doctor's

1 Complete the chart with an illness or a symptom.

diarrhoea food poisoning 'flu

It hurts when I walk on it. My glands are swollen, and it hurts when I swallow. I can't stop sneezing and my nose is runny.

Illnesses	Symptoms
I've got a cold.	
I've got _____.	I've got a temperature, my whole body aches, and I feel awful.
I've twisted my ankle.	
I've got _____.	I keep going to the toilet.
I've got a sore throat.	
I've got _____.	I keep being sick, and I've got diarrhoea.

What's the difference between these sentences?
I feel sick. *I was sick last night.*

2 Put the sentences in the correct order.

[1] I didn't feel very well.
[ ] She took my temperature and examined me.
[ ] After a few days, I started to feel better.
[ ] I went to the surgery and saw the doctor.
[ ] I went to the chemist's, paid for the prescription, and got some antibiotics.
[ ] I phoned the doctor's surgery and made an appointment.
[ ] She told me I had an infection.
[ ] I explained what was wrong.
[ ] She gave me a prescription.

3 **T 8.7** You will hear a conversation between Manuel, a student from Chile, and a doctor. Answer the questions.

1 What are Manuel's symptoms?
2 What questions does the doctor ask?
3 What does the doctor think is the matter with Manuel?
4 What does she prescribe?
5 What advice does she give him?
6 Does he have to pay for anything?

4 Look at the tapescript on p124. Practise with a partner.

5 Make similar conversations with other symptoms.