I love your daughter, Jack. I love her more than anything.
But frankly sir, I'm a little terrified of being your son-in-law.
Greg in the film Meet the Parents, *2000*

7A How to...

1 GRAMMAR uses of the infinitive with *to*

a Complete the sentences with the infinitive (with *to*) of a verb from the list.

not do find not finish rent see not tell ~~wash up~~

1 John's very polite. He offered *to wash up* after the meal.
2 Thanks for coming. We hope _____ you again soon.
3 She wasn't enjoying the lasagne, so she decided _____ it.
4 My boyfriend is unemployed. He needs _____ a job.
5 I'll tell you what she said, but please promise _____ anybody.
6 I'm sorry I shouted at you. I'll try _____ it again.
7 They want to live together. They're planning _____ a flat.

b Write sentences using the adjective and the correct form of the verb.

1 **nice / meet**
Hello! How *nice to meet* you.
2 **difficult / talk**
Do you find it _____ to my mum?
3 **easy / buy**
It's _____ presents for my girlfriend.
4 **important / not say**
It's _____ the wrong thing.
5 **great / hear**
Thanks for calling. It was _____ from you.
6 **fun / be**
It's _____ with your family.
7 **kind / invite**
Her parents were very _____ him.

c Complete the sentences with *to* and a verb.

1 He gave them some chocolates *to say* thank you.
2 They're going to evening classes _____ Chinese.
3 We called the restaurant _____ a table.
4 He told us a joke _____ us laugh.
5 I went to a cash machine _____ some money.
6 Do you use your phone _____ photos?

d Complete the sentences with a question word from the list, and *to* + the verb in brackets.

~~how~~ how many how much what when where

1 She gave me her address, but I don't know *how to get* there. (get)
2 My brother is always busy so I don't know _____ him. (call)
3 My mum asked me to get some eggs, but she didn't say _____. (buy)
4 We'd like to travel around the world, but we don't know _____ first. (go)
5 She wants to go to university, but she doesn't know _____. (study)
6 Who's going to be here for lunch? I have pasta, but I need to know _____. (make)

2 VOCABULARY verbs + infinitive

Complete the text with a verb from the list in the past tense.

forget try not want promise pretend learn
offer plan ~~start~~ need not remember

Charlie wasn't happy at his work so he [1] *started* to apply for a new job. Soon, one company called him and [2] _____ to give him in an interview. Charlie [3] _____ to tell his boss, so he [4] _____ to be ill. He told his boss that he had a stomach ache, and he [5] _____ to go to the doctor's. His boss [6] _____ to call him later to ask him how he was. Charlie was really hoping to get the job, so he was a bit nervous. He [7] _____ to drive to the interview, but there was a lot of traffic. In the end, he took the underground and was very late, and he [8] _____ to turn his mobile phone off. Unfortunately, it rang while he was in the interview, but Charlie didn't answer it. However when his boss called later he [9] _____ to act ill. The next morning, his boss said, 'I'd like to see you in my office'. Charlie [10] _____ to apologize, but his boss was very angry and Charlie nearly lost his job. But he [11] _____ an important lesson: not to lie to his boss again.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 PRONUNCIATION linking, weak form of *to*

a Practise saying the sentences.

1 We want to know.
2 They hoped to win.
3 He promised to call.
4 I don't know what to do.
5 She forgot to go.
6 It's important to remember.
7 I learned to swim.
8 He started to cry.

b iChecker Listen and check. Then listen again and repeat the sentences.

4 READING

a Read the article. Is the writer generally positive or negative about mothers-in-law?

The truth about mothers-in-law

Although it's men who tell jokes about them, mothers-in-law are usually less popular with their daughters-in-law than with their sons-in-law. A recent study of 49 married couples found that two thirds of wives interviewed said that their mothers-in-law caused them 'unhappiness and stress', compared with 15% of the husbands.

There are a number of reasons for this. First of all, there is the question of experience. A mother-in-law has already brought up a family of her own, so she feels that she has a lot of knowledge to pass on. In this situation, it is very difficult for her to keep quiet. However, when a daughter-in-law is a new mother, she usually wants to find her own way of doing things. She often interprets her mother-in-law's advice as criticism, which can cause a conflict.

Secondly, there is the case of the husband. Both women care for him, although each of them loves him in a different way. On the one hand, he is the mother-in-law's son and she obviously wants the best for him. On the other hand, he is the wife's partner, and she wants him to support her. Both women can get very upset if they see the man taking sides, and this can cause an argument.

However, mothers-in-law actually have a lot to offer, despite their reputation for causing trouble. They are generally excellent babysitters, and they don't mind helping with the housework. As long as they have their own independent lives and help out only when needed, mothers-in-law can play a very useful role in any family. The important thing is that they should not get too involved in their sons' and daughters' relationship so that nobody feels bad.

b Read the article again and choose the best answer.

1 What did the study find out about mothers-in-law?
   a More men than women have problems with them.
   b More men than women tell jokes about them.
   © More women than men have problems with them.
2 What advice do mothers-in-law try to give their daughters-in-law?
   a How to look after their husband.
   b How to bring up children.
   c How to do housework.
3 According to the article, which situation makes daughters-in-law angry?
   a When their husband agrees with his mother.
   b When their husband talks to his mother.
   c When their husband argues with his mother.
4 Which women make the best mothers-in-law?
   a Those who are really close to their son.
   b Those who don't have a life of their own.
   c Those who know when to offer help.

c Underline five words you don't know. Use your dictionary to look up their meaning and pronunciation.

5 LISTENING

a iChecker Listen to a conversation between two people about a ban on mother-in-law jokes. Do they agree in the end? _____

b Listen again and complete the sentences with D (Dave) or J (Jane).

1 D thinks the ban is ridiculous.
2 __ thinks that the jokes are offensive.
3 __ thinks that it's important to have a sense of humour.
4 __ makes a joke.
5 __ thinks that the jokes don't show respect for parents.
6 __ mentions a historical fact about mothers-in-law.
7 __ quotes a historical joke.
8 __ says that the jokes are sexist.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Learn these words and phrases.

advice /əd'vaɪs/
tactic /'tæktɪk/
greet /gri:t/
survive /sə'vaɪv/
honest /'ɒnɪst/
absolutely delicious /æbsəlu:tli dɪ'lɪʃəs/
be punctual /bi 'pʌŋktʃuəl/
make conversation /meɪk kɒnvə'seɪʃn/
shake (sbd's) hand /ʃeɪk 'hænd/
(make) the right impression /ðə 'raɪt ɪmpreʃn/

LIVEWORKSHEETS