8.7 Writing

1 Read the magazine problem page. Then read the expert's reply. Which problem does it refer to? Tick (✔).

A My parents are very strict and I'm not allowed to do the things that my friends do. For example, I'm not allowed to stay out after nine at the weekend or use Facebook. The kids in my class laugh at me and I feel depressed. Why can't my parents understand how unhappy I am?

Ben, 13 ☐

B I borrow things from my friend and she borrows clothes, books and other things from me all the time. The problem is, when my friend gives things back to me, they are often dirty or damaged. She never says sorry. If I talk to her about this, she'll get angry. What should I do?

Sharon, 13 ☐

C My friends are from rich families and they have a lot of expensive gadgets. They also get a lot of pocket money. I'm not jealous of their things, but I can't afford to go to expensive cafés and join them. I feel embarrassed. I don't know what to do.

Tim, 15 ☐

Hi,

❶ Thank you for your letter. Lots of people have this problem.

But first, let me ask you some questions. When you borrow things from your friend, do you remember to give them back to her? Do you give them back in a good condition? Remember: some people look after their own things, but they are not very careful about

❷ other people's things.

You shouldn't avoid talking to your friend about your problem. Try to explain that you look after your things. You could ask her to be careful with them and keep them clean. Finally, don't allow your friend to borrow very valuable things – it's a good idea to say 'no' sometimes! A good friend should understand.

❸ Good luck!
Edith

2 Complete the advice and suggestion with the words in the box. There is one extra word.

don't ~~idea~~ perhaps should
shouldn't try what

1 It's a good *idea* to be honest with your friends.
2 _____ you could ask them to go to cheaper places with you.
3 You _____ be scared to talk to your friend.
4 _____ to explain how you feel.
5 _____ about making a few new friends?
6 You _____ be honest with your friends.

Giving advice and suggestions

Use various structures to give advice and suggestions.
*You **should** smile. You **shouldn't look** unfriendly.*
*Try to relax. **Perhaps you could** invite them home.*
*What **about** talking to your teacher?*
*It's **a good idea to** ask questions.*

3 Rewrite the sentences. Use the words in brackets.

1 It's a good idea to be home early at your age.
You *should be* (be) home early at your age.
2 Perhaps you could ask them to let you have Facebook.
What _____ (about) them to let you have a social media account?
3 Try to find a weekend job and make some money.
Perhaps _____ (you) find a weekend job and make some money.
4 You should speak to the kids in your class.
It's _____ (idea) to speak to the kids in your class.
5 What about explaining that laughing at someone is unkind?
Try _____ (explain) that laughing at someone in unkind.

4 Where would you use the expressions in the box? Write them in the correct place.

Don't worry. It's normal to feel like this.
Good luck!
~~Thank you for your letter.~~
What about joining a sports club?
You should talk to them about your feelings.

❶ **Introduction**
Thank you for your letter.
_____

❷ **Giving advice and suggestions**
_____
_____

❸ **Ending**
_____

5 Choose one of the letters in Exercise 1. In your notebook, write a reply. Use the text in Exercise 1 and the expressions in Exercise 4 to help you.

LIVEWORKSHEETS