

READING

Read the text then do the next activity:

Maria (Bristol)

Dear Advice Corner,



I have lived in my flat for six months. I like my home because it is small and comfortable, close to my office, and in a quiet, picturesque neighbourhood. I used to live in the countryside, so I need a peaceful environment. The neighbours are usually friendly and quiet.

However, things have changed recently. Two weeks ago, a new neighbour moved into the flat upstairs. His name is Dan. He seems nice, but every evening he plays loud music. Sometimes the music goes on until midnight.

Last night, I was trying to sleep when the music started again. I felt tired and annoyed because I had an important meeting the next morning. I knocked on Dan's door, but nobody answered. The music was still playing at 12:30 a.m.

I don't know what to do. I don't want to argue with my neighbour because I have to see him every day. I think I should talk to him calmly and explain the situation. If he understands the problem, he will probably turn the music down.

But I am also worried. What if he gets angry? He might think I am complaining too much. Some of my friends say I should leave a polite note. Others think I must speak to him in person.

What do you think I should do?

Advice from Karen (Gloucester)

Maria, I think you should speak to Dan in person, but you need to choose the right moment. Don't talk to him late at night when you are tired and annoyed because you might say things that won't help at all. Instead, speak to him during the day when you both feel calm. You should explain the situation politely and tell him how the noise makes you feel. If you stay calm and friendly, he will probably understand.

You shouldn't ignore the problem because it might continue or even get worse. If you say nothing, he won't know that the music is disturbing you. He might not realise how loud it is. You don't need to argue — just explain that you have work in the morning and need to sleep. If he is reasonable, he will try to be more careful in the future.

Source: test-english

GOING ENGLISH

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1) Why does Maria like her flat?

2) Where did Maria live before moving to her flat?

3) What changed two weeks ago?

4) What does Dan do every evening?

5) Why was Maria especially upset last night?

6) What happened when Maria knocked on Dan's door?

7) Why doesn't Maria want to argue with Dan?

8) What do some of Maria's friends suggest?

9) What does Karen think Maria should do?

10) According to Karen, why shouldn't Maria ignore the problem?

11) What other advice would you give Maria to help solve the situation peacefully?

12) Have you ever had a problem like that? What happened, and how was it solved?
