

Reading

1 Match the pictures (a-c) to the types of argument (1-3).



- 1 An argument between friends
- 2 An argument with a parent
- 3 A family argument

Great students' tip

Exam tip: Answering multiple-choice questions

If you aren't 100% sure of the correct answer, eliminate first the answers that are clearly wrong. Then read again the part of the text that the question refers to and choose the correct answer.

2 Read the article and choose the best answers.

1 What does the author say about arguments in families?

- a Teenagers almost never agree with their parents.
- b It's very common for teenagers to argue with their mum and dad.
- c Teenagers often argue with their brothers and sisters.

2 Most arguments between teenagers and parents occur because ...

- a teenagers don't listen.
- b parents don't explain their opinion well.
- c teenagers don't get what they want.

3 What is it important to do when you ask your parents for something?

- a Give the reasons for your request.
- b Ask politely.
- c Compare your situation to your friends'.

4 In general, what has a positive effect on your parents' reply?

- a You give them examples of how your behaviour is positive.
- b You offer to help them.
- c You say that you deserve a positive reply.

5 What isn't a 'magic formula'?

- a Listening to your parents' reasons.
- b Asking nicely.
- c Following the author's advice.

Mum, it's not fair!

'I'm a teenager and I never have arguments with my parents.' Does this describe you? If it does, you're one in a million! But for most teenagers, disagreements with parents are an inevitable part of family life. So, what can we do about them?

When you have rows with your parents, it's often because you want something but they aren't willing to give it to you: getting permission to sleep over at a friend's house, coming back home later than you normally do, etc. The question is: what do you do when they say 'no'?

First of all, don't get angry! Your parents aren't saying no to make you feel bad. They have their reasons. So, listen to them. If they don't give you an explanation, ask them - politely! It's important to understand *why* they're saying 'no'.

Secondly, you need to explain why you're asking for something. Don't just say, for example: 'Can I have a new smartphone?' Give a reason why: 'All my friends have great phones and I feel bad because mine is really terrible. Also, I can't use a lot of apps because my phone hasn't got enough memory.' When your parents understand *why* you're asking for something, the possibility of getting a positive reply from them goes up!

Thirdly, you need to show that you deserve what you're asking for. Imagine that you ask for a new phone, but you're spending all your pocket money on clothes. It's not hard to predict your parents' reply! But the situation is completely different if you say: 'I'm saving all my money for a smartphone but they're very expensive. Can you please give me some pocket money if I help more in the house?'

So, listen to your parents' reasons, explain why you want something, and show why you deserve it. This isn't a magic formula, but it helps. Good luck!

3 Match the underlined words in the article to the meanings.

- 1 behave well, so it's fair that a good thing happens to you
- 2 spend the night at a friends' house
- 3 money you get from your parents
- 4 very bad arguments
- 5 not having the same opinion

Critical thinkers

4 Which of these ideas agree with opinions in the text (A), clearly disagree with opinions in the text (D), or are not in the text at all (N)?

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| 1 Get angry when you don't get what you want. | A / D / N |
| 2 Choose the right time to ask for something. | A / D / N |
| 3 You need to understand your parents' point of view. | A / D / N |
| 4 Don't compare your parents to your friends' parents. | A / D / N |
| 5 Insist if you get 'no' for an answer the first time. | A / D / N |
| 6 Offer to do something positive. | A / D / N |