problem

1 Verb + problem

Use the correct form of these verbs:

appreciate *ignore* *pose* *have*
wrestle with *tackle* *solve* *flee from*

1. We've been ..... a few problems with our air conditioning recently.
2. Asylum seekers may be ..... problems at home, but they often meet very serious problems when they finally settle somewhere else.
3. No one has ..... the problem of what to do with radioactive waste.
4. We simply can't afford to avoid the problem of teenage pregnancy. I think that we need to ..... it head on.
5. I fully ..... your problem, but I'm afraid there is little I can do to help you.
6. Are you seriously suggesting that we should just ..... the problem? Just turn a blind eye to it?
7. The professor ..... the problem for weeks, but he finally had to admit defeat.
8. I'm glad Dave and Gill and the kids are coming to stay, but it ..... the problem of where they are all going to sleep!

2 Common adjective collocations

Choose the more natural collocations below:

1. Smoking seems a ..... problem among teenage girls, in particular. Every year more and more are getting hooked. *(growing / rising)*
2. I'm afraid this is a very ..... problem which requires prompt attention. *(serious / large)*
3. There are a number of reasons why Geoff is not suitable for the job, but the ..... problem is that he is famous for rubbing people up the wrong way! *(simple / basic)*
4. One of the most ..... problems facing cities today is traffic congestion. *(pressing / important)*
5. I believe that traffic congestion in large cities is an ..... problem. I can see no way round it. And it's only going to get worse and worse. *(unsolvable / insurmountable)*
6. I wish there was a simple answer to this issue, but it's a very ..... problem, and it will require a complex solution. *(complicated / complete)*

3 Noun + preposition + problem

Use these nouns to complete the sentences:

extent *answer* *root*
nature *approach* *view*

1. We must get to the ..... of this problem. We need to discover the cause of it before too much damage is done.
2. There isn't a straight ..... to the problem because it just isn't that simple.
3. We aren't getting anywhere. I feel we need to take a fresh ..... to the problem.
4. The full ..... of the problem became clear when the pilots realised that the plane was almost out of fuel.
5. We need to take an overall ..... of the problem. We need to consider all parts of it.
6. If you think that our profitability will improve simply by making staff cuts, then you misunderstand the ..... of the problem.

Notes

1. In 1-8 'create' is also possible.
   In 3-1 'bottom' is also possible.
2. Note these expressions:
   This problem won't just disappear overnight.
3. If you think someone is going to disagree, you can ask: *Do you have a problem with this?*
4. Note the prepositions with 'problem':
   The government is looking for new ways to deal with the problem of homelessness.
   Unemployment is a serious problem for a lot of young people in this area.
5. Note that we use the expression 'No problem' to mean something is OK:
   Can you look after the shop for an hour or so?
   > No problem!
6. A 'thorny problem' is a difficult problem to which there is no obvious and easy solution.
7. Note these kinds of problems: *personal problems / health problems / a drink problem / a weight problem / an attitude problem.*
8. A 'problem child' or family is one which causes problems for other people.
9. Note the useful expression: 'the only problem is':
   The only problem with this car is it's incredibly expensive!

LIVEWORKSHEETS