

Hello!

Welcome to Opportunities for Serendipity English Course!

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO



I don't know what to do!

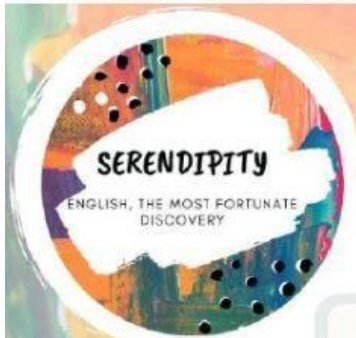
1 Reading.

a Answer; If you have a problem that you need to talk about, do you talk to a friend or to a member of your family? Why?

Do you think that men find it more difficult than women to talk about their problems? Why (not)?

b Read three problems from a weekly article in a British newspaper; **Too macho to talk**. Match two pieces of advice to each problem.





Too macho to talk?

Are you a man who finds it difficult to talk about feelings and problems with your friends and family? Send us your problem and you will **get advice** from our readers.

Problem A

Three weeks ago I asked my girlfriend to marry me – we have been together for 18 months. It was an impulse, but now I am having second thoughts. I am deeply in love with her, but is this too soon? Please help.

Problem B

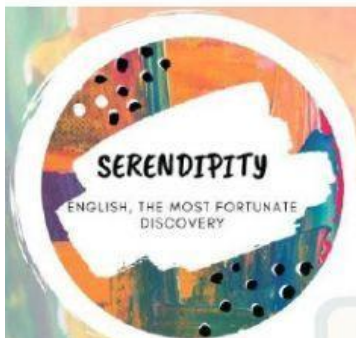
My wife is running her first marathon in London and she really wants me to go and watch her. However, there is a business conference in New York the same weekend and my boss would like me to attend. What should I do?

Problem C

My girlfriend wants us to spend two weeks in France in the summer with her family, but I find her sister really **difficult to get on with**. Should I go and risk having arguments all the time or should I suggest separate holidays this year?

Our readers' advice!

- 1 ☐ This seems an easy one – go, but try to **avoid her** where possible, and if you can't avoid her, then just smile and don't get into a conversation.
- 2 ☐ In my opinion, I don't think **it's worth** making problems at work. Why don't you suggest that she asks a girlfriend or a family member to go with her instead?
- 3 ☐ You should tell your girlfriend how you feel. Be polite and, above all, be honest. You do not have to like her sister. If she really is difficult, everyone else will already know.
- 4 ☐ You felt it was right at the time, but for some reason now you are not sure. You clearly love this girl and I think you should **go for it**. I got married after four months of dating, and we celebrated 30 years this year.
- 5 ☐ You should be there. Maybe this is a once in a lifetime moment for her. You can always **keep in touch** with colleagues on your phone.
- 6 ☐ You shouldn't do anything in a hurry. Fix a date 18 months from now which will give you time to be sure you're doing the right thing. And don't plan too much. If you start booking restaurants and getting clothes for the big day, it will make things worse if you then **change your mind**.



c Read the problems and advice again. Guess the meaning of the highlighted verbs and phrases.

d Which piece of advice do you agree with most for each problem? Do you have any other suggestions?

2 Grammar; should.

a Look at the text and answer; What do we use **should** for? How do you make negatives and questions with **should**?

- Use **should / shouldn't + verb** (infinitive without to) to give somebody advice or say what you think is the right thing to do.
- **should/ shouldn't** is the same for all persons.
- We often use *I think you should...* or *I don't think you should...* NOT *I think you shouldn't* ❌



ought to

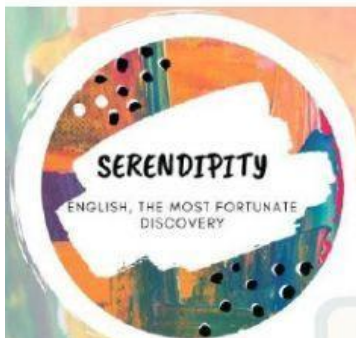
You can also use **ought to / ought not to** instead of **should / shouldn't**, e.g. You ought to wear a suit. He ought not to work so hard.

3 Pronunciation /u/ and /u:/.

a. Listen and complete the chart. 3.48

3.49

 <p>bull</p>	<p>good put should would</p> <p>..... </p>
 <p>boot</p>	<p>do soon true you</p> <p>..... </p>



b. Listen and write six sentences. 3.50

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

c. Listen again and copy the rhythm.

d. Listen to your teacher's problems and give advice.

Language for giving advice

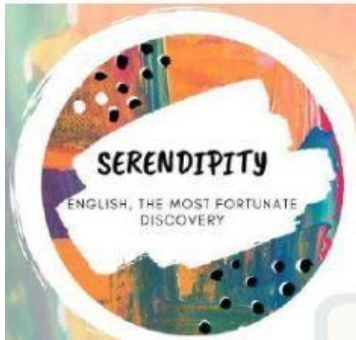
I think you should.....

I don't think you should

You shouldn't

You could

Why don't you?



4 Listening & Speaking.

a. Listen to someone phoning a radio programme called ***“What’s the problem?”***. What is the problem about? Make notes in the chart.

3.51

	<i>Problem</i>	<i>Expert’s advice</i>
<i>Caller 1</i>		
<i>Caller 2</i>		

b. What do you think the man should do?

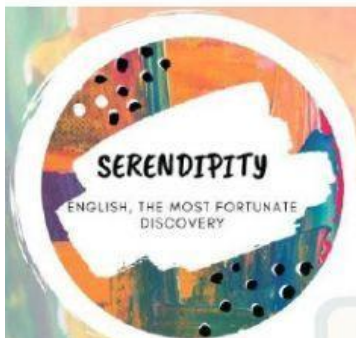
c. Now listen to the expert giving advice and make notes in the chart. Is it the same as yours? Is it good advice? Why (not)?

3.52

d. Now repeat for caller 2.

3.53

3.54



5 Vocabulary; get.

a. Match the sentences with their corresponding meaning of “get”.

Send us your problem and you will **get** advice.

If you start booking restaurants and
getting clothes for the big day.

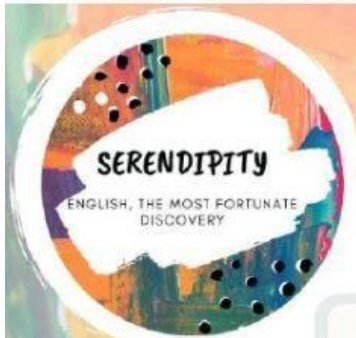
I'm **getting** really stressed about it.

b. Different meanings of **get**.

get

get is one of the most common verbs in English. It has several different meanings, e.g. arrive, become, and can also be used with many prepositions or adverbs with different meanings, e.g. get up, get on with.

get = become (+adjective/past participle)	get= become (+comparative)	get = buy / obtain
get nervous get married get divorced get lost get angry get fit	get better get worse get colder	get a ticket get a job get a newspaper
get + preposition (phrasal verbs)	get (to) = arrive	get = receive
get on (well) with get up get on / off a bus	get home get to work get to school	get an email get a (text) message get a present



c. Listen and check pronunciation. 3.55

d. Answer the questions with **get**.

1. When was the last time you **got a present**? What was it? Who was it from?
2. Would you like to **get fitter**? What do you think you should do?
3. What website do you use if you want to **get tickets** a) to travel b) for the cinema / theatre / concerts?
4. Who do you **get on with** best in your family? Is there anybody you don't get on with?
5. How do you **get to work / school**? How long does it usually take you?
6. What's the first thing you do when you **get home** from work / school?
7. Do you have a good sense of direction, or do you often **get lost**?
8. How many **emails** or **text messages** do you **get** a day? Are they mostly from friends? Do you usually reply immediately?



6 Writing.

a. Read two problems on a website. Write a response to one of them giving advice.

Goodadvice.com

Post your problems here and you'll get advice from all over the world.

My best friend wants to borrow some money to help her buy a car. I have the money, and she says she'll pay me back next year. But I'm worried that it's not a good idea to lend money to friends. What should I do?

My friend Anna has gone away on holiday for two weeks and I'm looking after her cat. Yesterday I couldn't find the cat anywhere. My friend is coming home in three days. I'm desperate. Should I phone her now and tell her? What should I do?