

12B Gossip is good for you

1 SPEAKING & LISTENING

- a Read the dictionary definition and then answer the questions with a partner.

gossip /ˈɡɒsɪp/ (v and n) to talk about other people, especially their private life

- What kind of people gossip more?
 - people in cities or people in small towns
 - young people or old people
 - men or women
- Who do people most often gossip about?
 - their neighbors
 - people at work or school
 - celebrities
- Do you have any friends who gossip a lot?
- How do you feel when people gossip about you?

- b 521 Listen to a conversation between Rosemary and Iris. What has happened to Jack and Emma? Listen again and answer the questions.

- Jack and Emma are the woman's...
 - neighbors.
 - friends.
 - children.
- Rosemary thinks she heard them having...
 - a conversation.
 - a party.
 - an argument.
- According to Rosemary, Emma said she was...
 - seeing another man.
 - looking for a new job.
 - going to stay with her mother.
- She said she had...
 - left the dog with a neighbor.
 - left the children with her sister.
 - left the dinner in the microwave.
- Iris is going to...
 - tell her husband.
 - tell her family.
 - tell another neighbor.

- c 522 Now listen to what Jack and Emma really said last night. Was Rosemary right about everything?

Yes, she is a good "metiche"

No, she was wrong for being "metiche"

2 GRAMMAR reported speech

- a Look at some extracts from the conversations. Compare what Emma said (direct speech) with what Rosemary says that she said (reported speech). Underline the words that are different in the highlighted reported speech.

1 What Emma said

I'm going to stay with my mom.
I won't come back...
I've taken the children to my sister...

2 What Rosemary and Iris said

She said that she was going to stay with her mother! She told him that she wouldn't come back.
Ooh, how awful. What about the children?
She said she'd taken them to her sister.

- b p.148 Grammar Bank 12B. Learn more about reported speech and practice it.

- c 524 Listen to some sentences in direct speech. Say them in reported speech. Begin with *He said...* or *She said...*

I'm in a hurry. She said that she was in a hurry.

I'll write. He said that he would write.