

5  6.10 Watch or listen to the second part of the show. What do Ben and Abigail agree on?

- 1 The potential roommate who came to their apartment will probably say "No."
- 2 Spending less on the Internet will help solve their financial problems.
- 3 Spending less on electricity is a solution, too.
- 4 Since the rent is going up, they'll probably need a third roommate.


 Skill solving problems

When you try to solve a problem, you can use some of the following conversation strategies:

- Make a point: *If you ask me, we should hire a nanny.*
- Suggest alternatives: *We could either sell the car or move to a cheaper place. / We could always sell the car. / Why not see if we can sell the car? / We could sell the car instead of moving.*
- Ask for or offer clarification: *Like what? You mean sell the car? The point I'm making is ...*
- Challenge someone to keep thinking: *Is it worth it, though? But is it really a good idea? What difference would it make?*

6  6.10 Read the Skill box. Guess the missing words in Ben and Abigail's sentences below. Then watch or listen again and check.

- 1 We'll _____ have to look for another roommate _____ find a way to save some money.
- 2 _____? We're pretty economical when it comes to food and stuff.
- 3 _____ switch to a cheaper Internet provider.
- 4 But even if we save 10 or 20 dollars, _____ would it _____?
- 5 Like, _____ use LED lights _____ normal bulbs?
- 6 _____ the ones that are cool to touch?
- 7 Is it _____? They're so expensive to buy.
- 8 _____ is that if we're serious about saving money, every little bit counts.

7 Which problem-solving strategy does each sentence in exercise 6 use?

1 suggest alternatives

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

Go to Communication practice: Student A page 161, Student B page 167

8 A **PREPARE** In pairs, imagine you belong to the same family. You need to solve a problem together. Prepare a conversation, using one of the ideas below.

an overdue bill noisy neighbors sharing the family car

apartment cleaning schedule walking the dog doing the weekly food shopping

B **PRACTICE** Practice the conversation. Make sure you make suggestions and offer/ask for clarification. Were you able to solve your problem?

C **PERSONAL BEST** Choose a new problem and practice the conversation again. Did you suggest practical solutions? What improvements can you make?

Personal Best

Write a paragraph describing a problem you or someone you know has had, including 