

Belinda Well, I hate to say it because it's such a cliché, but it's my mother-in-law. She's a nice woman, don't get me wrong, and on the whole we get on well, but one thing she does which I think is really rude is that whenever she comes for a meal she criticises my cooking. I'm not a professional, obviously, but I think I'm a pretty good cook and it really annoys me, especially after I've spent hours making something really nice.

Damien Well, he lives in London and he likes coming up to stay from time to time, which is great. But he's just phoned me saying he's coming next month and he's bringing his new dog. I know he's just got this dog and he's very keen on it, and doesn't like leaving it alone, but it's still a puppy and my girlfriend and I aren't very into dogs. Also we've just redecorated our house, and we've done a lot of work on the garden, and I'm pretty sure the dog's going to destroy them both.

Miranda Hi there. My problem's with my nephew, my sister's son. He's eight years old and his parents don't give him any rules. So he's really wild, and whenever they come to our house he just shouts all the time, jumps on the furniture, makes a mess in the kitchen. He even writes on the walls! It's really exhausting, but my sister's very sensitive about me criticizing her son, so generally I don't say anything. But I've reached the point where I'd almost prefer it if they didn't come round.

c 4.10 Listen and complete some extracts from the advice that Sarah gives.

Advice for Belinda

1 I think you ought to be the one _____

2 You shouldn't _____, because she won't change her opinion.

Advice for Damien

3 I think you should politely but directly _____.

4 To be honest, you don't really have to _____.

Advice for Miranda

5 You must _____ before their next visit.

6 Explain that he has to _____ a bit when he's visiting.

7 'You mustn't _____.'