

READING AND SPEAKING

Problem page

These problems come from a newspaper column where people write in with a problem, and other members of the public give their advice. Read the problems. What advice would you give?

DILEMMAS

with Vanessa Goodman



Match the readers' letters to these problems. There are two for each problem.

THIS WEEK'S PROBLEMS

Do I have to act my age?

Polly is 47. She is single, and her children have left home. She is very successful in her career, and has a lot of friends, but she isn't satisfied. She longs to change her life. She wants to live abroad, paint, and write poetry, but her friends tell her she should stop being silly and act her age.

a

Must I be a slave to my mobile?

Jason's company has bought him a mobile phone. They want him to keep it on all the time, so that they can contact him anywhere, anytime. He dislikes the idea of always being available, and he hates the way people use mobiles to have private conversations in public.

b

Should I throw my son out?

Sarah's 24-year-old son lives at home, stays in bed till late, and watches TV all day. He buys and sells drugs. He's clever, but he dropped out of school. He's never had a job. His father wants to throw him out, but Sarah worries that he could get further into drugs and end up in prison.

c

READERS' ADVICE

1 Children always need the support of their parents, whether they're four or 24. I think you should pay for him to get some qualifications, and when he's ready, ____ to find somewhere to live. Meanwhile, ____ him all the love that he needs.

Jenny Torr

Brighton

2 I decided to give it all up and change my life dramatically three years ago. Since then, ____ the most exciting three years of my life. It can be scary, but if you don't do it, you won't know what you've missed. I don't think _____. Go for it.

Mike Garfield

Manchester

3 He's using you! I think _____. It's time for him to go. Twenty-four is too old to be living with his parents. He's got to take responsibility for himself. And ____ about his drug-taking. Sometimes you have to be cruel to be kind.

Tony Palmer

Harrow

4 Why ____ it? He isn't their slave, they don't own him. And I also can't stand the way people use their mobiles in restaurants, on trains and buses. They think that the people around them are invisible and can't hear ____.

Jane Sands

London

5 I think ____ before she gives up her job and goes to live abroad. Does she think that the sun will always shine? If there is something in her life that makes her unhappy now, this will follow her. She should take her time ____.

Nigella Lawnes

Bristol

6 ____! He should have a word with his company and come to an arrangement with them. Why can't he turn it off sometimes? Mobile phones are great, and if he's got one for free, _____. They are one of the best inventions ever.

Pete Hardcastle

Birmingham

Which letter writer ... ?

- suggests waiting
- thinks love is the answer
- has been adventurous
- thinks that employers shouldn't exploit their employees
- loves mobile phones
- suggests being tough

What do you think?

- How old are children when they leave home in your country?
- What do you think of people who use mobile phones in public?
- Do you think older people should act their age?
Why/Why not?
- 'You have to be cruel to be kind'. Can you think of an example?

VOCABULARY

Words that go together

Match the nouns to make new words.

alarm
car
traffic
credit
ice
sun
time
rain

cream
glasses
table
coat
lights
card
park
clock

hair
sun
ear
sign
book
rush
cigarette
earth

case
drier
quake
post
ring
lighter
set
hour

Verbs	Complements
live	being silly
write	your age
stop	abroad
act	responsibility
take	poetry
take	your job
stay	what you've missed
don't know	a word with someone
have to be	in bed
give up	your time
have	cruel to be kind



EVERYDAY ENGLISH

At the doctor's



diarrhoea food poisoning 'flu	It hurts when I walk on it. My glands are swollen, and it hurts when I swallow. I can't stop sneezing and my nose is runny.
Illnesses	Symptoms
I've got a cold.	
I've got _____.	I've got a temperature, my whole body aches, and I feel awful.
I've twisted my ankle.	
I've got _____.	I keep going to the toilet.
I've got a sore throat.	
I've got _____.	I keep being sick, and I've got diarrhoea.

Put the sentences in the correct order

- I didn't feel very well.
- She took my temperature and examined me.
- After a few days, I started to feel better.
- I went to the surgery and saw the doctor.
- I went to the chemist's, paid for the prescription, and got some antibiotics.
- I phoned the doctor's surgery and made an appointment.
- She told me I had an infection.
- I explained what was wrong.
- She gave me a prescription.

You will hear the conversation between Manuel and a doctor. Answer the questions

- What are Manuel's symptoms?
- What questions does the doctor ask?
- What does the doctor think is the matter with Manuel?
- What does she prescribe?
- What advice does she give him?
- Does he have to pay for anything?

