MISSING TEENAGER SAVED BY HAND SIGNAL



1 Warm up

In pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. What was your experience of lockdown like during the pandemic? What did you do with your time?
2. What did you find particularly difficult during this time?
3. Did you find relationships more difficult, either because you were seeing too much of some people or not enough? What effect did lockdown have on your relationships?
4. What do you think would happen in an abusive relationship?

2 Focus on vocabulary

Part A: Match the following vocabulary to the definitions.

1. spot (v)	a. a child who is below the age to be legally responsible for themselves
2. distress (n)	b. a state of great unhappiness and panic
3. viral (adj.)	c. notice something, usually when it is hard to see
4. earshot (n)	d. outside of what is legally allowed
5. alert (v)	e. some evidence that someone was in a particular place or that something happened
6. trace (n)	f. the area over which something can be heard by a particular person
7. unlawful (adj.)	g. viewed on the Internet by a large number of people over a short period of time
8. minor (n)	h. warn someone about something negative happening

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Part B: Now, put the words from Part A into the correct gap in the following sentences. You may need to change the form of the word.

1. They couldn't see me because it was dark, but I _____ several men looking at my neighbors' house and climbing over their back fence.
2. The thieves didn't actually take a lot from my parents' house when they broke in. But they did cause a huge amount of _____ for both of them, which is what makes me really angry.
3. This morning, Mike made sure everyone was out of _____ before telling me that he'd actually been offered a job with a different company.
4. I thought it would be OK, but I was told I wasn't able to bring my daughters inside the club because they are both _____ .
5. I don't know where Darren is, there's absolutely no _____ of him online or at work.
6. My neighbor was arrested over the weekend for _____ possession of firearms. I had no idea.
7. My cousin was messing around singing on *TikTok* over the weekend, and it's gone _____ . She can't believe it.
8. I noticed that the child was completely alone in the forest, so I immediately _____ the police.

Now in pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. What situations in life have caused you **distress**?
2. What do you think it is about certain videos that makes them go **viral**?
3. Are you good at **spotting** errors in your writing? What can you do to get better at it?
4. What can adults do in your country that **minors** can't?
5. 200 years from now, will there be any **trace** of your lifetime on Earth? Why/Why not?
6. Have you ever had to **alert** the police, fire service, or ambulance about a dangerous situation happening? What happened?

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3 Prediction

You are going to listen to a news report about a missing teenager. Predict how the following information might be connected to the story.

1. North Carolina
2. Kentucky
3. 16
4. 61
5. a viral video
6. a smartphone

Now listen to the news report and check your answers.

4 Listening comprehension

Decide if the following information is Given (G) or Not Given (NG) in the news report.

1. the name of the intended victim
2. the name of the criminal
3. the name of the motorist who called the police
4. where the teenager learned about the hand gesture
5. how to make the hand gesture
6. the percentage increase in worldwide domestic abuse cases in 2020
7. why has the hand gesture become well-known
8. the charges against the criminal

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Complete the following conditionals with the best choice of words from the box.

is monitoring	when	should	are	unless
invite	makes	meet	is	must

1. _____[1] you meet someone for the first time, you should _____[2] in a public place, like a coffee shop or a movie theater.
2. _____[3] you know someone well, don't _____[4] them to your house when you are alone.
3. If your partner _____[5] you feel afraid, you _____[6] tell someone else about it.
4. It _____[7] a bad sign if your partner _____[8] your personal phone or your computer.
5. You _____[9] be free to see your friends and have your own interests if you _____[10] in a good relationship.

Skimming for gist

Write the following "if" clauses in the correct gaps in the article. You may need to change the punctuation.

- (A) if you feel like you're walking on eggshells around your partner all the time
- (B) if your partner does anything at all which makes you feel nervous, unsafe, or afraid
- (C) if they are abusing you
- (D) if you enjoy swimming or walks in the countryside
- (E) when you're out and about
- (F) if you achieve something and be supportive of you

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Seeing the signs

Good and bad relationships

1. There's been a lot of talk in the media this week about the rise in cases of domestic violence and abuse. There have also been a lot of letters from you, our readers, asking about it. Some of you are worried about friends, sisters, or cousins. Some of you are worried about yourselves.
2. With many parts of the world either going back into lockdown or yet to come out of lockdown, many people are trapped with abusive partners. Relationships are naturally very private, so when you're in one, it's not always easy to know what is and isn't normal. When they begin, relationships are full of romance, and strong feelings are created. But what happens when things go bad? And how do you know?
3. First of all, a good sign in a relationship is if your partner is happy to take the relationship at a pace that is comfortable for you. You should be cautious if they're trying to persuade you to make commitments to them that you aren't comfortable with. (1)_____ , they should be respectful towards you whether or not you are around other people. If they put you down or make you feel unimportant when you're around friends and family, this could be a red flag.
4. Importantly, you should be able to talk about your feelings with your partner. Even if they disagree with you, they should be able to respect your point of view. It is healthy and normal for each of you to have separate interests and friends and spend time away from each other. However, they should also make an effort to do some of the things you enjoy with you. (2) _____ , then why not do those things together? They should be happy for you (3) _____ Giving you compliments and saying positive things about you to other people should not be unusual in a good relationship.
5. You should certainly be seeking help (4) _____ . If you frequently have butterflies or feel nauseous about situations around them, this is also a problem. You should never, under any circumstances, have to be anxious about what your partner will or won't do or think. If this is the case, you should look for help - especially if they ever physically threaten you. However, even if they give you non-physical consequences, such as ignoring you or disappearing for long periods of time without telling you where they are going, this is still manipulative behavior.
6. Are they controlling about how you spend your time? You should also be wary if they make you feel guilty for spending time doing your hobbies or with your friends and family. (5) _____ , you should ask yourself why. If their behavior is unpredictable and they are prone to getting angry or verbally abusive with you quickly, this is wrong. Equally, if they try to make important decisions for you, or don't listen to your opinion, this is another bad sign.
7. Always remember: an abuser may make you feel as though you are responsible for their actions. It is never your fault; it is the fault of the abuser. Abuse is a crime regardless of whether that person is your partner or someone in your family. (6) _____ , you need to seek help.

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Extended activity/homework

Find words in the article on page 5 which mean the same as the following.

1. _____ (paragraph 3) the speed at which something progresses
2. _____ (paragraph 3) being careful
3. _____ (paragraph 5) a sick feeling
4. _____ (paragraph 5) extremely worried
5. _____ (paragraph 5) to say you will hurt someone or do something negative to affect them
6. _____ (paragraph 5) getting what you want by influencing, often in an unfair or underhand way
7. _____ (paragraph 6) believing that someone or something is dangerous
8. _____ (paragraph 6) difficult to decide what will happen next
9. _____ (paragraph 6) likely to do something

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