

READING: Identifying attitude

WED 13:02

Zoe: Hello, dear housemates! Just wondering whether anyone else is starting to get a little ... fed up with Tom's behavior. 😞

Max: Yup!

Klara: Tell me about it! He woke me up at three o'clock this morning! Tell me if I'm being unreasonable, but I expect people not to make noise when they come home in the middle of the night. 😞

Javier: I didn't hear a thing.

Max: Javier, nothing wakes you up! For your information, Tom dropped a pan in the kitchen, and then tripped and fell while he was coming up the stairs.

Javier: Yeah, he's a little clumsy sometimes.

Zoe: Personally, I could forgive Tom for coming home late now and then. I'm more annoyed by the fact that he "borrows" food and never actually replaces it. Twice this week, he's finished my orange juice and hasn't even mentioned it. To my mind, that's completely unacceptable.

Max: Totally agree, Zoe. If you want to upset your housemates, taking food without their permission is a really great way to do it! And he never washes the dishes. I'm always having to wash his dirty plates and mugs. To be honest, I think he takes advantage of us. And, OK, he's very charming and funny, but as far as I'm concerned, that's just not enough.

Javier: Yeah, but no one's actually told him, have they? He probably has no idea that he's doing anything wrong. If I were you, I'd talk to him. Generally, people are glad if you tell them how they can improve their behavior.

Klara: Javier, I totally get what you're saying, but Tom is pretty sensitive ...

Max: Javier, what planet are you on? People hate it when you criticize them!

Javier: Well, if you don't say anything, but keep getting mad at him, he'll be more upset. That's for sure! While we're on the topic, if you guys came to our monthly house meetings, you could discuss Tom's behavior with him then. Last time, none of you came. It was just Tom and me. 😞

Klara: That's a good point, Javier. Maybe we should try that.



1 Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Javier seems less annoyed by Tom's behavior than his housemates do. _____
- 2 Javier is easily woken up during the night. _____
- 3 Klara thinks that people who share a house should be quiet late at night. _____
- 4 What irritates Zoe about Tom is that he takes other people's food. _____
- 5 Max refuses to wash Tom's dishes for him. _____
- 6 Max does not accept that Tom has some good qualities. _____
- 7 Tom's housemates have already told him that he is behaving badly. _____
- 8 Javier recommends that his housemates speak to Tom about the problem. _____

2 Read the text and decide who has the following opinions. Write K for Klara, M for Max, Z for Zoe, and J for Javier.

- 1 Being noisy at night is not the worst thing Tom does. _____
- 2 Tom's good qualities do not make his bad behavior less serious. _____
- 3 We like it when others suggest how we can be better people. _____
- 4 Tom is easily upset by other people's comments. _____
- 5 We don't like it when other people say we are doing something bad. _____

3 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences. Then check your answers in the text.

- 1 If you want to upset your housemates, taking food without their permission *is / was* a really great way to do it!
- 2 If I were you, *I'll / I'd* talk to him.
- 3 In general, people *are / were* glad if you tell them how they can improve their behavior.
- 4 People *hate / hates* it when you criticize them!
- 5 Well, if you don't say anything but keep being mad at him, *he'll / he'd* be more upset.
- 6 If you guys *will come / came* to our monthly house meetings, you could discuss Tom's behavior with him then.