

Teenage Problems

Exercise 1

Fill in each blank with **ONE** word only.

Do you bully?

Think the person bullying is the big, (1) _____ kid on the (2) _____ who pushes everyone around? Could be, but it can also be the (3) _____, the student council member, or the quiet kid. A lot of times, people think that appearance (4) _____ someone who bullies, but you can't tell who bullies just by looking at them. Students who bully can be any (5) _____, age, (6) _____ or grade.

Then what does (7) _____ someone who bullies?

The answer: It's his or her (8) _____. It's bullying when someone uses words or action to hurt or (9) _____ someone else and that person has a hard time defending himself or herself.

Sometimes kids who bully might think that it's cool, fun or just "no big deal," but think about it — what is cool or fun about hurting someone? Name calling, tripping someone, (10) _____ at the person, leaving the person out, (11) _____ him or her on purpose—how can hurting someone possibly be "no big deal"?

If kids think about why they are bullying, they can then deal with those reasons and change their (12) _____. You want cool? Now that's cool.

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks.

I've never understood bullying. Why do people have to make the (1) _____ of another person so miserable? Why do they think they have the right to punch and (2) _____ someone they think is weaker than them. I was bullied when I was a (3) _____. It was a living hell. I was really (4) _____ to go to school, for many, many years. I knew I was not (5) _____ during break times. It was always a group of bullies that got me in the corridors, or on the playing fields. They made me (6) _____ school. I know they also changed me for life. I have no (7) _____ now. I'm 32 years old but I'm afraid to speak up for myself. The school bullies took away my belief in myself. They didn't know that they would scar me for life. The physical scars have gone but not the emotional ones.

Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks.

Being single has its advantages and disadvantages. I think it's better to stay single when you're (1) _____. You need to live and have (2) _____. You also need the freedom to do what you want, when you want. Being single in your twenties gives you lots of time to go (3) _____, see the world and (4) _____ different things. Most people like being single in their twenties and then want to settle down in their (5) _____. I think being single later in life can be sad. All of your friends are married or attached and people tend to go out and (6) _____ less. I think being single when you're old would be very (7) _____. The longer you stay single, the harder it becomes to settle down. In some countries, people think you're strange if you're single later on in (8) _____.

Exercise 4

Listen to three short dialogues. For each one. Choose the best summary of the general meaning (a or b).

1. Ellie is upset because
 - ☐ A. she can't take part in the school show.
 - ☐ B. she can't go to a family wedding.

2. Daisy is excited because
 - ☐ A. she likes seeing her cousin.
 - ☐ B. her cousin has got a present for her.

3. James is worried because
 - ☐ A. he isn't ready for his music exam.
 - ☐ B. he can't finish his homework in time.

Exercise 5

Listen to four dialogues (A-D). Match the dialogues with sentences 1-5 below. There is one extra sentence.

The person with the problem:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1 agrees that it is not necessary to tell the truth about it. | _____ |
| 2 agrees to follow the advice, but feels upset. | _____ |
| 3 asks for advice, but decides not to follow it. | _____ |
| 4 gets angry when their friend gives advice. | _____ |
| 5 does not get any advice from their friend. | _____ |

Exercise 6

You will hear six texts twice. Choose the correct answer (A-D).

1. What is the speaker giving advice about?

- ☐ A. making life decisions
- ☐ B. studying for tests
- ☐ C. improving your work
- ☐ D. planning your time

2. What is true about Amy?

- ☐ A. She's leaving her family.
- ☐ B. She's starting work.
- ☐ C. She's leaving her home town.
- ☐ D. She's going on holiday.

3. The presenter is asking for opinions about

- ☐ A. a news story.
- ☐ B. a holiday.
- ☐ C. a charity.
- ☐ D. a new lottery.

4. What does Lucy do?

- ☐ A. give advice
- ☐ B. ask about an event
- ☐ C. recommend a style of music
- ☐ D. remind someone about an event

5. What is the speaker advertising?

- ☐ A. the best bands to see in August
- ☐ B. the range of food to buy at music events
- ☐ C. different places to make money in the summer
- ☐ D. the chance to work at a music festival

6. Who is the speaker?

- ☐ A. a student discussing schoolwork
- ☐ B. a teacher giving advice on a trip
- ☐ C. a tour guide welcoming visitors
- ☐ D. a weather presenter on television

Exercise 7

Listen to Melissa, Justin, Laura and David and write the correct names.

1. _____ didn't tell her parents about the cyberbullying.
2. _____ changed the privacy settings on his profile.
3. _____ has closed his email account five times already.
4. _____ got a new phone. Now she blocks messages from strangers.

Exercise 8

Look at the advice sheet Nigel gave Mayuki. Listen and complete the missing information.

Advice sheet: Planning your learning

Set (1) _____

e.g. Speaking - on the (2) _____ and in everyday conversations

(3) _____ - to the news, seminars, presentations

Find material

e.g. books in the self access centre, (4) _____ groups etc.

Ask yourself questions

e.g. (5) _____?

(6) _____?

(7) _____?

Exercise 9

Listen to two dialogues and a monologue. Choose the correct answer (a-c).

1. How does the first dialogue end?
 - ☐ A. The speakers refuse to listen to each other's point of view.
 - ☐ B. The speakers eventually come to an acknowledgment of each other's viewpoints.
 - ☐ C. The speakers decide that the disagreement can't be resolved.

2. What caused the speaker of the monologue to feel happier during her childhood?
 - ☐ A. Her parents had triplets.
 - ☐ B. A relative moved in with them.
 - ☐ C. Her brothers spent more time playing with her.

3. In the second dialogue, what do Linda and Cathy tell the interview?
 - ☐ A. How their parents' divorce affected them emotionally.
 - ☐ B. How Cathy continually annoyed Linda.
 - ☐ C. What the main cause of problems between them was.

Exercise 10

Listen to a recording about how the findings of a new research on arguing teenagers.

While listening, choose the correct answers.

1. A recent study found out that
 - ☐ A. parents found it stressful to argue with their teenagers.
 - ☐ B. teenagers profit from discussions with their parents.
 - ☐ C. teenagers do not learn how to solve conflicts.
 - ☐ D. parents are annoyed by teenagers who talk back.

2. Parents who quarrel with their teens should
 - ☐ A. avoid criticizing them.
 - ☐ B. try to find a compromise.
 - ☐ C. worry about what to say.
 - ☐ D. see this as good practice.

3. Videos of young teens showed that most discussions were about
 - ☐ A. staying out late.
 - ☐ B. bad school results.
 - ☐ C. part-time jobs.
 - ☐ D. inappropriate clothes.

4. It's important that teenagers learn how to argue because
 - ☐ A. they need to deal with disappointments.
 - ☐ B. they are often too emotional.
 - ☐ C. it helps them accept rules.
 - ☐ D. it is useful during conflicts with friends.

5. Teens who practised negotiating at home
- ☐ A. tried to prevent their peers from taking risks.
 - ☐ B. persuaded their parents more often.
 - ☐ C. could resist the bad influences of people their age.
 - ☐ D. became more confident than their parents.
6. Teenagers who had not learned to argue
- ☐ A. gave in more easily.
 - ☐ B. felt misunderstood by their friends.
 - ☐ C. worried about coming home late.
 - ☐ D. broke the rules less often.
7. Parents can support their children by
- ☐ A. taking their arguments seriously
 - ☐ B. praising their behaviour.
 - ☐ C. being honest.
 - ☐ D. being interested in their hobbies.
8. When setting up rules, parents should motivate their kids to
- ☐ A. put everything down in written form.
 - ☐ B. discuss them.
 - ☐ C. understand possible consequences.
 - ☐ D. agree to them.