

EVERYDAY LIFE

NEIGHBOURS

Age: Teenager/Adult

Level: Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time: 30 minutes +

Activity: In this lesson, students will:

1. complete a questionnaire about neighbours;
2. describe their ideal neighbour.

Language focus: places to live; adjectives to describe a neighbourhood

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student

PROCEDURE

Tell students about where you live – the type of house, the neighbourhood and your neighbours. Elicit/teach key vocabulary from the questionnaire as you do so. Explain that students are going to do a questionnaire about where they live.

Hand out copies of the worksheet. Ask students to look at Exercise 1. Students complete the questionnaire in pairs and record their own and their partner's answers. Finally, they should decide if they would make good neighbours or not.

Students report their conclusions to the class.

Students then complete Exercise 2, in pairs or small groups. Students design their perfect neighbour, considering issues like wealth, age, noise levels and job. Once they have discussed their neighbour, and made notes, they should present their perfect neighbour to the class. Take a vote when everyone has spoken – whose neighbour sounds the best? (And depending on the creativity of your students, you could also vote on whose sounds the worst!)

As an extension exercise, or homework activity, you could ask students to imagine they live next to a particular famous person, such as a politician, film star or sports star – either assign them a name, or ask them to choose. Would they make a good neighbour? Ask them to give reasons for and against.

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WORKSHEET

EXERCISE 1: WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

Ask your partner the questions below. You can tick more than one box for each question. When you have both answered the questionnaire, compare your answers and decide whether or not you would be happy to live next door to each other!

Name: _____

Where do you live?

- flat / apartment
- detached house
- semi-detached house
- terraced house
- cave

Who do you live with?

- no one
- immediate family
- partner
- friends
- pets

How would you describe the neighbourhood where you live?

- dead
- quiet
- lively
- noisy

In relation to your home, where do you have neighbours?

- above
- below
- to one side
- on two sides
- on more than two sides
- I have no neighbours

How well do you know your neighbours?

- very well
- relatively well
- not well

Do you like your neighbours?

- yes
- no

Are your neighbours noisy?

- yes
- no

Have you ever had to complain to your neighbours about anything?

- never
- once
- a few times
- often

Have your neighbours ever complained to you or your family?

- never
- once
- a few times
- I'd rather not talk about it

Which of the following do you enjoy?

- playing loud music
- DIY (home improvements, etc)
- organizing parties
- flamenco dancing
- arguing with family
- watching TV late at night
- other noisy or unsocial activities

Imagine that some friends come to visit you at 11 o'clock at night. After a while your neighbour complains about the noise. What do you do?

- tell your neighbour to get lost
- ask your friends to leave
- invite your neighbour in
- tell your friends to talk quietly

Which (if any) of the following people would you feel uncomfortable having as neighbours?

- someone who's been to prison
- holiday visitors
- musicians
- squatters
- students

Do you think there should be a 'quiet period' from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. when people are not allowed to make noise?

- yes
- no

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WORKSHEET

EXERCISE 2: THE PERFECT NEIGHBOUR

Working in a small group, design your perfect neighbour. (Some things to think about: Are they quiet or noisy? Are they young or old? Are they friendly or unsociable? Are they rich or poor? Do they have pets?) Take notes, then tell your class about them. Whose neighbour is best?

