



Adult

## In Another Person's Shoes

### Part 1

A. Read Kara's message about a problem. Then check (✓) the advice you think Mandy should give Kara.



Hi Mandy,

I have a problem with my **roommate**. We met in a class **in college**, and we became good friends. Now we live in an **apartment** together, but there are some big problems. She finds problems with everything my friends and I do. She's always right and everyone else is wrong! She gets really angry at little things people do or say. She thinks everyone is against her. When she hurts someone's feelings, she never says she's sorry. She thinks the other person shouldn't feel hurt. She always talks about her life, and she isn't interested in other people's lives. Last month, I got a better job, and she wasn't happy for me at all. She started saying how bad her job was. My friends don't like my roommate. But I still like her and I feel sorry for her. What should I do?

Thanks,  
Kara



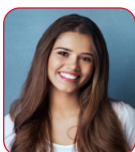
roommate  
in college  
apartment



flatmate  
at university  
flat

1. Don't worry about the things she says. The problem is hers, not yours.
2. Tell her everything happening in your life so she really knows you.
3. Tell her how you and your friends feel. She will feel like you trust her.
4. Spend more time with friends who are kind.
5. Don't think she's going to change. Accept the good and bad things about her.
6. Find a new roommate and move out of the apartment.

B. Read Mandy's advice. Which advice in Activity A did she give? Do you agree or disagree with her advice?



Kara,

First, don't worry about the things your roommate says. Her problem is she doesn't have any empathy. *Empathy* is being able to think of yourself in another person's place – in another person's shoes – and understand how that person feels. Your roommate can't do that. When a person doesn't have empathy, they won't listen to other people, and they can't understand how other people feel. My advice is this: try to spend more time with people who are kind and have empathy. Don't think you can change your roommate. Try to enjoy the good things about her and accept the bad things. Don't tell her anything about your life because she will find problems with it. Finally, if you feel really unhappy, you should find another roommate.

Good luck!  
Mandy



## Part 2

### A. Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Once upon a time, there were two princes who hated each other. They always argued and insulted each other. One day, the two princes sat at a table across from each other. There was a number on a card in the middle of the table. To the prince on one side of the table, the number was 6. To the prince on the other side of the table, the number was 9. A person in the room asked, "What number is this?" One prince said, "It's six." The other prince said, "You are wrong. It's nine." Then that other person turned the table around and asked the question again. Both princes said to each other, "Oh, I see what you mean! You're right!" The two princes became friends.

1. Why did the two princes have different answers to the question at first? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What happened when the person in the room turned the table around? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did the princes become friends? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why is this story important? \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Work in groups. Read the situation and answer the questions.

**Situation:** Sonia is a college student in California. One day, she was at the movies. Suddenly, Steve, a student behind her, spilled his popcorn and drink on Sonia. It damaged Sonia's sweater, and now she wants Steve to pay to fix it. Steve said he's sorry, but he doesn't want to pay for the sweater.

1. Why do you think Sonia wants Steve to pay?
2. Why do you think Steve doesn't want to pay?
3. Who is right?



### C. Read the background to the situation above and answer the questions.

#### Background:

Steve says, "I was going to sit down with my popcorn and drink. Then, I slipped on some water on the floor. I dropped my food and drink because I didn't want to fall on Sonia."

Sonia says, "That's not important. He should still pay for my sweater. It was expensive, and it was a special gift from my parents before I left home to study in California."

1. How do you think Steve feels?
2. How do you think Sonia feels?
3. Do you have a different opinion now? Explain.

### D. Work in groups. Discuss the questions.

1. When you read or hear different opinions about a situation, do you quickly decide who is right? Explain.
2. Should you try to find out more information before you form an opinion? Explain.



### Part 3

#### A. Work in groups. Look at this photo of an athlete and answer the questions.

1. Which sport do you think she plays? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What do you know about that sport? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you think it is an interesting sport to watch? Why or why not?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Listen to an interview with an expert in this sport. Then discuss your answers to the questions from Activity A with your group.

1. Were any of your answers in Activity A wrong? Why do you think you answered incorrectly?
2. How can interviews like this one help change people's attitudes toward people with disabilities and the sports they play?
3. Imagine you are an athlete with disabilities. What do you want people to know about you and your sport?



#### C. Work in pairs. Think of someone you both know or have read about who has a very different life from your lives. Follow the instructions.

1. List ways the person's life is different from yours.
2. Imagine how that person feels about the points in the list you made in question 1. Make notes.
3. List ways you could understand the person better and possibly act differently toward them.



### Extension

**A. Work in groups. Imagine life in your college or work but with a disability (or a different disability from the one you have). Research the following information and complete the chart.**

- things your college or work already does to be accessible for people with that disability
- things your college or work should do to be more accessible for people with that disability

Our college / work already ...	Our college / work should ...

**B. Present your ideas from Activity A to the class.**