

Upper Intermediate – Learn From Your Mistakes

- A. Harry looks after pets for people in his neighbourhood when they are away from home or on holiday. Last week, he was looking after a neighbour's cat. Everything went well, but as he was leaving, he forgot to shut and lock the back door. When Harry's neighbour came home, she sent Harry a text to say she had found her back door open. Harry didn't know what to do! He now feels embarrassed that he made such a silly mistake, but one which could have had serious consequences. He can't stop thinking about what might have happened if his neighbour's house had been burgled or if there had been a storm. Harry is thinking about quitting his career as a pet-sitter. **What do you think he should do?**
- B. Esme has been struggling at school this year. She's found a lot of the work difficult and her grades have gone down. She felt discouraged that she was getting lower grades than her friends, so she stopped hanging out with them and found a new crowd. They don't work as hard in class, but at least Esme doesn't feel like the least intelligent in the group. Esme was nervous when she got her end-of-term report last week. When she opened it, she knew her parents would be disappointed with her grades, so she hid the report in her room and didn't give it to them. Now her teacher has asked to meet with Esme and her parents to discuss her grades. **What do you think Esme should do?**
- C. David is learning French. He likes it, but he's finding that there are lots of rules and verb-endings to remember when he speaks. It's not like his own language at all! But most of all, David doesn't like speaking French in class because he feels silly when he tries to speak with a French accent. When he makes a mistake and his classmates laugh, he feels they are laughing at him. Next summer, his French class will take a trip to France and stay with local students and their families for a week. David is worried his hosts won't understand him and will make him feel embarrassed. David is thinking about giving up French and save himself the trouble. **What do you think he should do?**

Reflection Point

Making mistakes is a vital part of the learning process and of the way that new ideas are created. If you're frightened of making mistakes, you'll learn slower and you won't make the best of your abilities.