

## Lesson 44: An Argument

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*Listen to this argument between two roommates, Nadia and Elizabeth, and choose the best answer to each comprehension question:*

### **Listening Comprehension**

- 1. Nadia isn't feeling well because she has...**
  - a. a hangover
  - b. a headache
  - c. the flu
- 2. Elizabeth was woken up by...**
  - a. loud music from the living room
  - b. Nadia making too much noise
  - c. the strange girl on the couch
- 3. In the future, Elizabeth wants Nadia...**
  - a. to clean up the mess she makes
  - b. not to stay out so late
  - c. to pay more for the extra food she eats
- 4. Elizabeth is anxious because...**
  - a. Nadia appears to be very sick
  - b. her boyfriend is coming for lunch
  - c. the kitchen is dangerous
- 5. Nadia's friend Alice also...**
  - a. lost Elizabeth's book
  - b. ruined Elizabeth's book
  - c. stole Elizabeth's book
- 6. Nadia promises to...**
  - a. ask her friends to behave better
  - b. get the bookshelf fixed
  - c. replace Elizabeth's book
- 7. Elizabeth and Nadia agree that...**
  - a. their friends don't get along with each other
  - b. they can't stand living together
  - c. they need to take better care of the apartment

# Conversation Text

**Elizabeth:** Hey Nadia, are you awake? I need to ask you something.

**Nadia:** Ugh, **can't it wait?** I've got a **pounding headache**.

**Elizabeth:** Are you **hung over** again?

**Nadia:** No, it's just a **migraine**. And you **barging into** my room isn't helping.

**Elizabeth:** I'd just like to know why there's a complete stranger sleeping on the couch in the living room, with *my* blanket. She was **snoring** so loud that she woke me up.

**Nadia:** Oh. That's Alice. We got home *really* late last night and I told her she could **crash** here.

**Elizabeth:** Well, that's very generous of you. But the next time you volunteer our apartment as a bed and breakfast, could you at least clean up the kitchen afterwards?

**Nadia:** Yeah... we were **starving** when we got back from the club, and by the time we finished making the food, we were just too **pooped** to put everything away.

**Elizabeth:** Honestly Nadia, I don't need to hear the whole **backstory**. All I care about is

## Vocabulary

**can't it wait?** = a slightly rude way to say you don't think something is urgent

**a pounding headache** = a headache in which you experience pulses or waves of pain

**hung over** = feeling sick and tired due to drinking too much alcohol the night before

**a migraine** = a very strong type of headache

**barging into** = entering rudely without asking permission

**snoring** = making loud breathing sounds while sleeping

**crash** = (*informal*) sleep, stay over at someone's house

**starving** = very hungry

**pooped** = very tired

**backstory** = the events that happened before

that right now the stove is **encrusted** with dried pancake **batter**, and all the coffee cups **reek of** whiskey.

**Nadia:** Uh, sorry about that. We'll clean it up later, just gimme a few more minutes to **sleep in**.

**Elizabeth:** No, I need you to clean it up now! My boyfriend's coming over for lunch, and the kitchen looks like a bomb went off in there!

**Nadia:** We'll get to it, all right? But it's seven in the morning, there's still plenty of time.

**Elizabeth:** It's a quarter to eleven!

**Nadia:** Okay, okay! Geez, you always **blow a fuse** whenever I do the slightest little thing to annoy you.

**Elizabeth:** The *slightest* little thing?! You invited a random girl over, **trashed** the apartment, and by the way Alice also spilled water all over my Victorian poetry book. The pages are **sopping wet**.

**Nadia:** Well, **it serves you right** for leaving your stuff lying all over the floor. We've got shelves for all your junk.

**Elizabeth:** Not anymore. The bookshelf broke when that fat friend of yours tried climbing up it to get the cat down from the top!

**Nadia:** Oh, right. Um... I'll call the guy tomorrow to get it fixed.

## Vocabulary

**encrusted** = when a sticky substance dries and forms a crust on a surface

**batter** = the thick liquid used to make pancakes and cakes

**reek of** = smell very badly of

**sleep in** = sleep until a later time than usual

**blow a fuse** = get angry; explode with anger

**trashed** = (*slang*) damage or destroy

**sopping wet** = completely wet; full of water

**it serves you right** = you deserve the bad thing that happened to you

**Elizabeth:** You said you'd do that last week, but you never did!

**Nadia:** **It slipped my mind**, all right?! No need to **jump down my throat**.

**Elizabeth:** Every weekend it's the same thing! You invite over a bunch of **clowns** who have nothing better to do with their lives but get drunk and leave the apartment **in a shambles**!

**Nadia:** Hey, don't **diss** my friends! At least they're fun, unlike *your* friends from that **lame** little poetry club.

**Elizabeth:** You know what? I've had it. I don't think I can live with you a second longer.

**Nadia:** **You took the words right out of my mouth.**

## Vocabulary

**It slipped my mind** = I forgot it

**jump down my throat**  
= react angrily; make angry comments

**clowns** = (*informal*)  
incompetent,  
ridiculous people

**in a shambles** = in a complete mess

**diss** = (*slang*)  
disrespect; say bad things about, insult

**lame** = (*slang*) stupid, pathetic

**You took the words right out of my mouth**  
= I was about to say the exact same thing

## Vocabulary Quiz

Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Three words are not used.

barges into	crash	lame	serves you right	snoring
blow a fuse	hung over	pooped	sleep in	starving
clown	in a shambles	reeks of	slip my mind	trashed

1. After holding a three-hour long birthday party with twenty kindergarteners, my wife and I were both \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The movie was supposed to be scary, but it was actually kind of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I can't believe Michael got promoted to director! That \_\_\_\_\_ has no clue how to manage people.
4. You really should wash out your gym bag once in a while. It \_\_\_\_\_ old sweat.
5. My 7 AM class was canceled, so I got to \_\_\_\_\_.
6. One of my coworkers always \_\_\_\_\_ my office without knocking whenever she needs something urgently.
7. I set up reminders on my phone to pay the bills, so that it doesn't \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The whole group of tourists was arrested after they \_\_\_\_\_ the hotel room and refused to pay for it.
9. You cheated on your girlfriend, and now you're complaining that she's giving you the silent treatment? It \_\_\_\_\_.
10. After our train was inexplicably delayed for the third time, my friend looked like he was about to \_\_\_\_\_.
11. I went to the party, but I only had one beer. I didn't want to overdo it and be \_\_\_\_\_ for my exam in the morning.
12. My mom can't sleep in the same room as my dad because his \_\_\_\_\_ keeps her awake.

## **Speaking Task**

Living and sharing your space with another person can be challenging! Describe your experience living with someone (could be a romantic partner, roommate, siblings, other students, etc.) – did you get along well? Did you have “house rules”? Were there ever any disagreements or incidents like the one in this lesson?

Record your answer at [www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish](http://www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish) or send the MP3 to [homework@espressoenglish.net](mailto:homework@espressoenglish.net) for feedback.

## **Answers**

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. b
5. b
6. b
7. b

### **Vocabulary Quiz**

1. pooped
2. lame
3. clown
4. reeks of
5. sleep in
6. barges into
7. slip my mind
8. trashed
9. serves you right
10. blow a fuse
11. hung over
12. snoring