



Noisy Neighbors

Conversation > Advanced 7



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

drive (someone) up the wall	To annoy or irritate someone.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: My younger sister drives me up the wall.</i>

pain in the neck	Something or someone that is very annoying.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: Traffic is a total pain in the neck.</i>

soundproof	Designed in a way that prevents sound from getting in or out of something.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: Modern recording studios are fully soundproof.</i>



disaster	A very bad situation.
[noun]	<i>Ex: His birthday party ended in a disaster.</i>

interfere	To stop something from happening or being done properly.
[verb]	<i>Ex: The rain didn't interfere with the game.</i>

violation	The act of breaking or not following a rule, law, etc.
[noun]	<i>Ex: The policeman is writing a ticket for a traffic violation.</i>



Exercise 2 – Dialogue

Choose one character and read the dialogue aloud with your tutor.

Peter: What's the matter, Jake? You've barely said a word since I got here.

Jake: I'm sorry. It's nothing to do with you. I'm just so exhausted and annoyed with my neighbors.

Peter: The new ones who moved in last week? What's wrong with them?

Jake: They're a pain in the neck, that's what's wrong with them! Every night it's another disaster.

Peter: Does it really interfere with your life that much?

Jake: If they're not having friends over for band practice, they're having a big argument, or partying all night.

Peter: They sound like fun to me.

Jake: I haven't slept since they moved in. They're really driving me up the wall.



Peter: That sounds bad, I can see how it's a total violation of your peace and quiet.

Jake: How am I supposed to rest and relax in my own home if they never stop?

Peter: Have you considered soundproofing your house?

Jake: I don't see how that's my responsibility. They should soundproof their house.

Peter: You know, for once, I agree with you, Jake. You can't live like this.

Jake: Really? What can I do, though?

Peter: I think you should call the police and make a noise complaint.

Jake: You're right. If I don't do it now, this noise will just become the new normal.



Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct answers from the answer pool below and fill in the blanks.

Answer Pool

violations

pain in the neck

interfere

drives him up the wall

soundproof

disaster

1. I didn't know the event would turn out to be a _____.
2. The board of health fined the restaurant for several _____.
3. Please, do not _____ with our conversation again!
4. I need to _____ my house.
5. Don't be a _____. Leave me alone!
6. She really _____. He's always very mad when he sees her.



Exercise 4 – Role Play

Take turns with your tutor and act out the scene described below.

Scene: You've just moved into a new apartment and your neighbor's dog sometimes barks at night. Complain about the noise to your neighbor. The teacher can be the neighbor.



Exercise 5 – Discussion

Discuss the following questions with your tutor.

1. Are there any laws in your country that forbid people from making too much noise?
2. Have you ever had a noisy neighbor?
3. Do you think it's best to call the police when your neighbors are being very noisy? Why? Why not?
4. Do you like your neighbors? Why? Why not?
5. How do you usually react when someone disturbs your sleep?