



Describing typical problems in life

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_1071X

LANGUAGE

English

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Learning outcomes

 I can describe a problem and say how it makes me feel.

 I can distinguish between adjectives ending in -ed and -ing and use them accurately in a sentence.

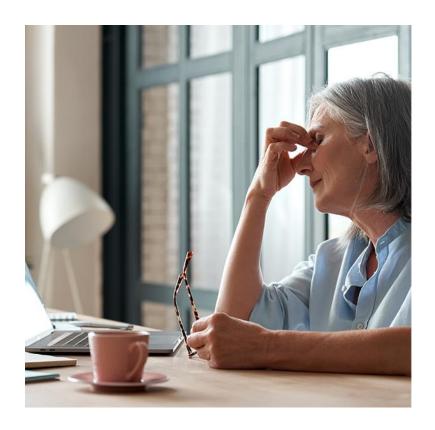




Warm-up



- 1. **Discuss**: what problems can we have in these four areas of life?
- 2. **Brainstorm** as a group, or in breakout rooms. **Think of** at least 3 examples for each!



Work

Money

Health

Personal relationships





Reading

Read the beginning of the dialogue and **answer** the questions below.

Dirk: So sorry I'm late, Lil! I had to call my dad just now. It was his birthday yesterday and I completely forgot – I feel awful about it!

Lillian: Don't be so hard on yourself. These things happen! Although you *are* pretty bad at remembering dates. I just ordered for you – an Americano, right?

Dirk: You're the best! That's not why I'm feeling stressed, though. I'm under a lot of pressure at work.

Lillian: Are you still working a lot of overtime...?



- 1. Where are Dirk and Lillian?
- 2. Do you think they know each other well?



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Reading

Read the rest of the dialogue and **answer** the questions below.

Dirk: Yeah, but things have got worse since we last spoke. My new boss gets frustrated easily and he keeps taking it out on me.

Lillian: Oh, that's very unfair.

Dirk: It's really annoying. I'm so sick of how he treats me. Especially when I'm working round the clock to meet this deadline!

Lillian: I don't blame you. It's his problem, not yours. I have to say, you do seem exhausted.

Dirk: It's affecting my personal life too. My kids say they never get to see me; I even forgot my dad's birthday!



- 3. What problems does Dirk describe to Lillian?
- 4. How are Dirk's problems affecting his personal life?





What do these phrases from the text mean?

I'm working round the clock to meet this deadline!

Things have got worse since we last spoke.

I'm so sick of the way my boss treats me.

I'm under a lot of pressure at work at the moment.

My boss is stressed, and he keeps taking it out on me.

to make other people feel bad because you are feeling bad

to be annoyed about somethingthat has been happening for a long time

the situation has changed (in a negative way)

to work hard and for very long hours

e to feel worried or stressed because of external factors





Adjectives ending in -ed and -ing

Answer the questions about Dirk and Lily's conversation.

Dirk: My new boss gets frustrated easily and he

keeps taking it out on me. It's really annoying.

Lillian: I have to say, you do seem exhausted.

Dirk describes his problems at work using a variety of adjectives.

- Identify the adjectives that end in -ing and -ed in the sentences above.
- Which adjectives describe how a person feels?
- Which adjective describes the situation or thing that causes a feeling?



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-ed or -ing?

Put the sentences into the correct category, then **complete the rules** for adjective endings.

She never says how she's really feeling. It's so **frustrating**!

I don't know what's wrong with me – I'm **exhausted** all the time.

I get really **annoyed** when my kids don't listen to me.

I'm quite **worried** about my friend.

He's under a lot of pressure right now.

Our car broke down on the motorway. It was so **frightening**.

Adjectives ending in _____ describe how a person feels.

Adjectives ending in _____ describe what causes a feeling.





Match the sentences

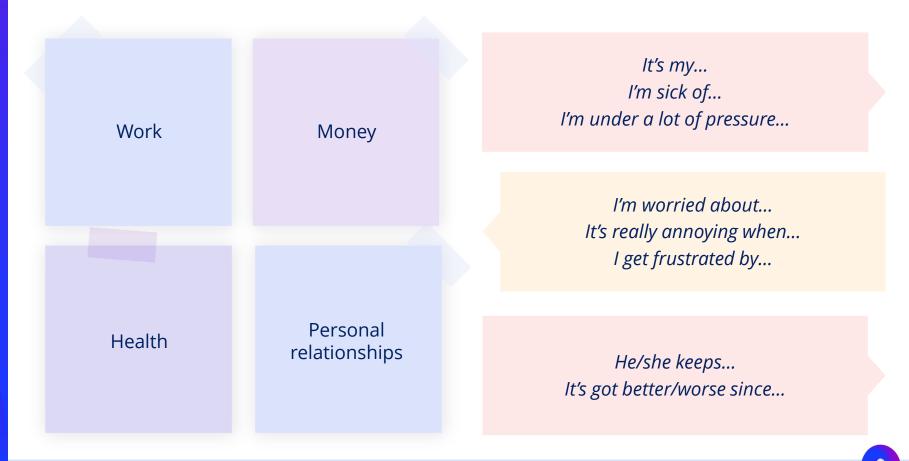
Match the beginnings of the sentence (1-5) with the correct ending (a-e).

1	My wife keeps	а	worse since I saw you last. The doctor says I need an operation on my knee.
2	I get really annoyed when	b	telling me I should stop smoking, but it's impossible – I'm addicted!
3	I'm so sick of	С	having no money – I think I need to find another job.
4	Things have got	d	you say things like that – I'm trying my best to change!
5	I feel quite frustrated because	е	he keeps buying expensive things that we can't afford right now.



Talking about a problem

- 1. **Choose** one of the problems you brainstormed during the warm-up.
- 2. **Describe** the problem and your feelings. It doesn't have to be a real problem, or about you!
- 3. **Go around** the class until everyone has spoken at least once!







Don't be so hard on yourself!

I don't blame you.

Look, these things happen.







When might you say this to somebody? Is it a **positive** or a **negative** thing to say?

Does this phrase show we **agree** or **disagree** with someone?

Do you think this phrase would make someone feel **better** or **worse** about their situation?





Reacting to a problem

Read the quotes from the text. **Answer** the questions below.



Dirk

I'm so sick of how my boss treats me. I don't blame you. It's his problem, not yours!



Lillian

Do you agree with Lillian?

What would you say to Dirk?

What other phrases can we use to react to a problem?

Brainstorm your ideas as a class!





Describing and reacting to a problem

- 1. **Choose** one of the roles below. **Make** some notes about your problem and how you feel.
- 2. Take turns **describing** your problem and **explaining** how you're feeling to your class.
- 3. Your classmates should **listen** and **react** to your problem appropriately.











Sarah	Jane	Eleanor	Max	Brandy
Works long hours and receives no overtime pay.	Forgot her best friend's birthday last week.	Husband wants to take a break but she doesn't want to.	His partner has recently lost her job.	She's just returned to university.
Considering quitting.	They are no longer speaking to each other.	Unsure about to do now.	The partner is in a bad mood all of the time.	Has 3 children and can't do her work at home.

Let's reflect

 Can you describe a life problem and say how it makes you feel?

 Can you distinguish between adjectives ending in -ed and -ing and use them accurately in a sentence?

Your teacher will now suggest one improvement for each student.



End of the lesson

Idiom

I'm at my wits' end.

Meaning: I've tried everything, and I don't know what to do.







Additional practice



Vocabulary review



Review vocabulary from the lesson. Which words or phrases did you find the most difficult? Did you know any of them already?



to work round the clock

Things have got worse

stressful

exhausting

to be under pressure

worried

to be sick of...

Don't be so hard on yourself!

to take (it) out on somebody

These things happen!





Adjectives ending in -ed and -ing



Fill in the gaps using the adjectives in the red box. You don't have to use all the adjectives.

1	I'm about my parents. They are getting old, and they live far away. I don't get to visit them very often.					
2	That was such a film! I'm that you made me watch it.					
3	He comes home every night. I keep telling him he should take a break but he won't listen. It's very					
4	Oh, how! I only bought that breakfast cereal last week and it's all gone. Who's been eating it?					
5	It's having a small kid. It's impossible to get a good night's sleep.					

worried
worrying
frustrated
frustrating
annoyed
annoying
exhausted
exhausted
frightened
frightening



Describing a problem



- 1. **Imagine** you are one of the people in the pictures. **Tell** the class about your problem.
- 2. Your classmates should **listen** and **respond** to your problem.

I've been having some problems at...

It's left me feeling very...





Read the quote





A good friend should also be a good listener.

Do you agree with this statement?

What do you think it means to be a good listener?

What do you think is the most important quality in a good friend?









How do people normally react when you tell them about a problem?

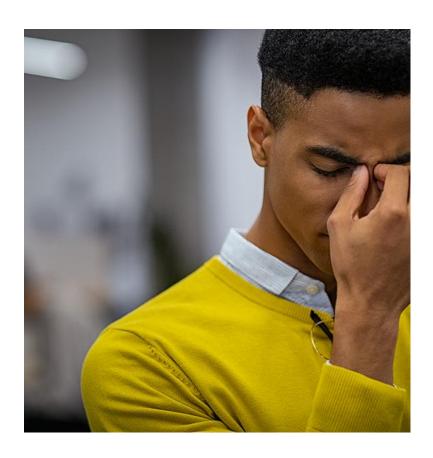
Do you know any tips for dealing with a stressful situation?



Reacting to another person's problem



Describe a problem. As Lillian did in the dialogue, your classmates should react and respond to your problems where appropriate.



Well, since the baby arrived, I haven't been sleeping well. I'm exhausted, and it's affecting my work.

My sister gets angry when people don't agree with her. It's impossible to have a pleasant conversation with her!

I keep trying to save money, but I love shopping online. My partner is sick of it – we're supposed to be saving to buy a house together.



Answer key

P.4:

- 1. A café or restaurant (she has ordered him a coffee).
- 2. He calls her 'Lil' (a nickname informal usually only between friends); She knows what kind of coffee he likes; she says he is bad at remembering dates
- 3. He is working round the clock to meet a deadline. His new boss gets frustrated easily and takes it out on him. He's under a lot of pressure at work, and it's affecting his personal life.
- 4. He's working overtime, so he doesn't get to see his family. He forgot his dad's birthday because he is stressed about work.

P.6: 1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (e) 5. (a)

P.7: 1. frustrated; annoying; exhausted 2. frustrated; exhausted 3. annoying

P.8:

Adjectives with -ing describe the cause of a feeling: sentences 1 and 5

Adjectives with -ed describe a feeling: sentences 2, 3 and 4

P.9: 1. (b) 2. (d) 3. (c) 4. (a) 5. (e)

Additional practice

P.18: 1. worried 2. frightening; annoyed 3. exhausted; frustrating 4. annoying 5. exhausting



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Summary

Phrases for describing a problem

- to keep + ing, to be sick of...
- It's got better/worse (since)...

When do we use adjectives ending in -ed or -ing

- Adjectives ending with *-ing* describe the cause of a feeling
- Adjectives ending with -ed describe a feeling

Adjectives that end in -ed or -ing

- annoyed/annoying
- worried/worrying
- frustrated/frustrating

Phrases for reacting to someone's problem

- Don't be so hard on yourself!
- These things happen.
- I don't blame you.



9.

Vocabulary

Don't be so hard on yourself

These things happen

Things have got worse

to be under pressure

to take (it) out on somebody

to be sick of (something)

to work round the clock

to keep + verb (ing)

awful

exhausted/exhausting

frustrated/frustrating

annoyed/annoying

worried/worrying

frightened/frightening





Notes



