

READING

Should we always give second chances?

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_1041R

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can read a text on second chances and give its key points.
- I can share my own views on giving second chances and forgiveness.



Warm-up

**How can we hurt
someone in life?**

**Share some examples
with the class.**



Should we always give second chances?

Read the text. **Answer** the questions.

Jane's story

I made a huge mistake while in high school. I was part of a large group of friends and one day I heard some gossip about one of the more popular girls in the group, Marie. I decided to tell a few people what I had heard because I was hoping it would make me more popular. How ridiculous!



1. What mistake did Jane make?
2. What motivated her to behave in this way?

Should we always give second chances?

Read the text. **Answer** the questions.

The information wasn't true at all and Marie found out that I had been **spreading rumours** about her. She was really upset and said she felt **betrayed**. I felt so bad about what I'd done and I apologised from the bottom of my heart. In the end, we **drew a line under it** and moved on, but our friendship was never quite the same.



3. What did she learn about the information she shared?
4. What happened to her friendship with Marie?



We **drew a line under it** and moved on.

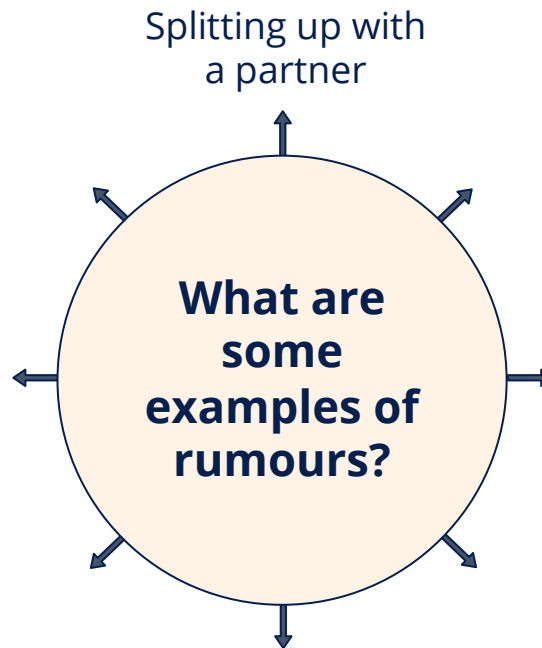
In British English, this means to agree to **not discuss** something any more.

We also say **let's draw a line under this** to bring a difficult discussion to an end.



Brainstorm

Note down ideas together as a class.





Discuss

Have you ever made a similar mistake to Jane?



Did your relationship go back to normal after that or not?



Should we always give second chances?

Read the text. **Answer** the questions.

Tom's story

The worst thing I ever did was **cheat** my colleague Henry **out of** a promotion. I told him that the boss had already decided who he wanted to promote to manager and so Henry decided not to put his name forward. I ended up getting the promotion and became Henry's manager.



1. What mistake did Tom make?
2. Who got the job instead of whom?



Should we always give second chances?

Read the text. **Answer** the questions.

Unfortunately for me, our boss asked Henry why he didn't go for it and Henry worked out what I'd done. I was worried he might take **revenge** on me by telling everyone what I'd done but he's such a good guy that he **turned the other cheek** and **forgave** me.



3. How did Henry discover what Tom had done?
4. Did Henry punish Tom or not?



Discuss

**What would you
have done in
Henry's position?**

**Would you have taken revenge
on Tom or forgiven him?**





Speaking

Are there any situations in life where you wouldn't be able to give someone a second chance?





Should we always give second chances?

Read the text. **Answer** the questions.

Elizabeth's story

15 years ago, my friend Susan was **unfaithful to** her husband. It was such a shock to everyone and it turned really nasty. Her husband Mike was set on taking **vengeance** for being betrayed - he called everyone they knew and exposed what she'd done.



1. What mistake did Susan make?
2. How did Susan's husband react?

Should we always give second chances?

Read the text. **Answer** the questions.

Then he did what you see in films: he cut up all of her clothes and started a bonfire in the back garden. It **harmed** their relationship with their children because they were so upset that their parents were fighting. It's all **water under the bridge** now 15 years later, but I wouldn't say he's completely forgiven her either.



3. How did the mistake affect Susan's children?
4. Is Susan still with her husband or not?



Interview a partner

1. **Ask** and **answer** the questions in **breakout rooms**.
2. **Share** one fun fact about your partner.

1



Why is it so hard to forgive someone sometimes?

2



Has there been a time when you have struggled to forgive someone?

3



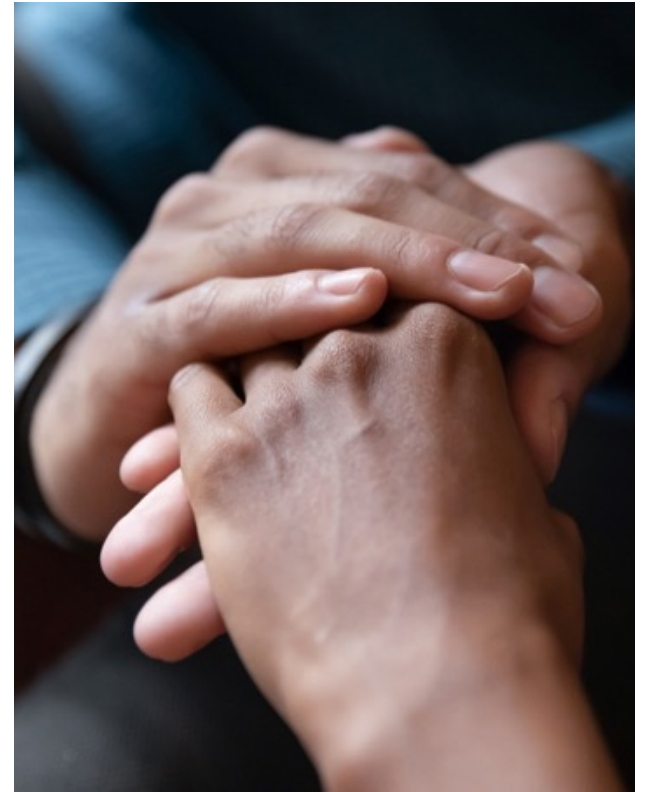
Some people forgive, but never forget. What do you think about this attitude?



What do you think?

**Is it ever right to
take revenge on
someone else?**

**Share your ideas with your
class.**



End of the lesson

Idiom

let bygones be bygones

Meaning: to decide to forget about arguments that happened in the past

Example: Matthew and Tom decided to **let bygones be bygones** and remain friends.



Additional practice



Brainstorm

Add your own ideas to the mind map.





How about you?

**Have you ever been
cheated out of
something you
wanted?**



**How did you feel in
that situation?**



Read the quotations

1

“

**Revenge is
a dish best served cold.**

2

“

An eye for an eye.

Here are two
common proverbs
related to revenge.

What do each of
them say about
revenge?

Do you have any
sayings about
revenge in your
language?





Answer key

- P. 4-5:**
1. In high school, she spread gossip about her friend Marie.
 2. She wanted to become more popular.
 3. She learned that the information wasn't true.
 4. She and Marie agreed to bury the hatchet, but the friendship hasn't been the same since.
- P. 8-9:**
1. He lied to his colleague, Henry, about a promotion, saying their boss had already given the position to someone, so Henry decided not to apply for it.
 2. Tom got the promotion and not Henry.
 3. Henry found out when his boss asked him why hadn't applied.
 4. No, Henry didn't punish him – he chose to forgive Tom.
- P. 12-13:**
1. Susan was unfaithful to her husband.
 2. He felt betrayed and wanted to take vengeance.
 3. Her children were upset by Susan and her husband's fighting.
 4. They are still together, but he hasn't completely forgiven her.



Summary

Describing a mistake in life

- *to spread rumours; to betray someone; to cheat someone out of something;*
- *to take revenge on someone; to be unfaithful to someone; to take vengeance; to harm;*
- *Her husband Mike was set on taking **vengeance** for being betrayed.*

Second chances and forgiveness

- *to draw a line under something; to turn the other cheek;*
- *to forgive someone; to be water under the bridge.*
- *In the end, we **drew a line under it** and moved on, but our friendship was never quite the same.*



Vocabulary

to spread rumours

to betray someone

to cheat someone out of something

to take revenge on someone

to be unfaithful to someone

to take vengeance

to harm

to draw a line under something

to turn the other cheek

to forgive someone

to be water under the bridge



Notes

