

# 29 Neighbours From Hell

GRAMMAR  
FOCUS



## Before you start

- 1 What usually causes conflict between neighbours? Have you ever had problems with your neighbours?
- 2 Listen to some traditional Scottish bagpipe music. Do you like it?
- 3 Read about the dispute between two neighbours. Whose side are you on, the bagpiper's or his neighbours'? Why?

## COMPLEX SENTENCES (2):

### EMPHASIS

#### Presentation

- 4 Compare the sentences in the table. Which of the statements below (a-c) are true about the formal sentences? Only one statement is false.

- a) they begin with a word that has a negative meaning
- b) they have the word order of a question (inversion)
- c) they sound less emphatic

Find more examples of formal sentences in the text. Make a list of negative words and expressions that these sentences begin with.

#### Formal Written Language

*Never has he known anything like it.*

*Seldom have bagpipes caused such conflict.*

*Neither could they read a book at home without wearing earplugs!*

- 5 Paraphrase these conditional sentences so that they sound less emphatic and less formal.

*Had I known that my neighbour was a piper, I wouldn't have moved in in the first place.*

*I would have felt terrible at the ceremony, had my friends not been there with me.*

#### Neutral Language

**He has never known** anything like it.

**Bagpipes have hardly ever caused** such conflict.

**They couldn't read** a book at home without wearing earplugs **either**.

## Neighbours Call the Tune

Fergus Maclean, a professional piper, has packed his bags. Not only has he decided to move house, but he is emigrating to America after his neighbours in Dundee made several complaints about noise pollution. Never has he known anything like it. What Mr Maclean feels upset about is the fact that people call his music 'noise pollution'. 'It's this that really gets to me,' fumes Mr Maclean. 'I mean, the pipes are our national instrument, aren't they? It's not surprising that a lot of our best pipers go to live abroad.' Seldom have bagpipes caused such conflict. Mr Maclean's neighbours claimed that they were literally being driven mad by the noise. Had they known that their neighbour was a piper, one couple said, they wouldn't have moved into the street. 'All we want to do is forget the sound of bagpipes!' they said. No sooner had they moved in than the noise began to drive them mad. Mr Maclean practised for five hours a day and rarely did they get a chance to have a lie-in in the morning. Neither could they read a book at home without wearing earplugs! In the end, the local council took action. 'It was only after careful consideration that we gave Mr Maclean a warning,' a council spokesman said. 'What counts as noise pollution is not clearly defined – there is no difference between someone playing the bagpipes and loud rock music.'

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