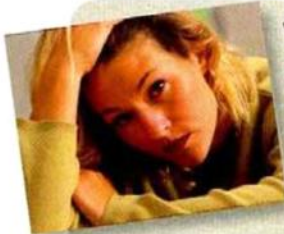


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16 I can talk about relationships

A Difficult relationships



When I married Vince, he already had two daughters from his first marriage, and they **took an instant dislike to** me. They **resented** me being in their home, and either ignored me or were openly **hostile**. The neighbours didn't help either – nice enough **to my face** but not so **complimentary behind my back**. It was a **tough** time, and **inevitably** it **put a strain on** my relationship with Vince. Fortunately, he **stuck up for me** when the kids were difficult, and **as time went by**, things **settled down** a bit. Now, two years on...

Glossary

- take an instant dislike to sb** dislike sb as soon as you meet them.
resent sth feel anger about sth, often when it seems unfair. **resentment** N.
hostile unfriendly and aggressive. **hostility** N.
to sb's face If you say sth **to sb's face**, you say it to them directly.
complimentary (about sb) saying nice things about sb. (You can also **compliment sb on sth** or **pay sb a compliment**.)
behind sb's back If you say or do sth **behind sb's back**, you say or do it without their knowledge, and usually it is bad or unkind.
inevitably used for saying that sth is certain to happen. **inevitable** ADJ.
put a strain on sb/sth create pressure and anxiety for sb; create tension in a relationship.
stick up for sb support and defend sb if they are criticized.
as time went by over a period of time.
settle down become calmer and more relaxed.

1 Positive or negative? Write P or N.

- 1 She was full of resentment. _____
- 2 He was very complimentary. _____
- 3 She did it behind my back. _____
- 4 She can stick up for herself. _____
- 5 He was hostile. _____
- 6 Things have settled down. _____

2 Complete the words in the text.

Martin had been a top designer, and his boss had always been very (1) c_____ about his work. It was, therefore, a nasty shock when he was made redundant. Martin (2) r_____ the fact that he was chosen because he was the youngest, but he was even more shocked by his wife's (3) h_____. She blamed Martin for not (4) s_____ up for himself, and this fact, on top of the loss of his income, (5) i_____ put a big (6) s_____ on their relationship. They would need to make some (7) t_____ decisions about the future.

spotlight tough

Tough has different meanings.
 1 difficult: *It's a **tough** decision.*
*He had a **tough** childhood.*
 2 strict: ***tough** new driving laws.*
 3 able to deal with difficult situations: *She'll be OK – she's **tough**.*

3 Complete the sentences.

- 1 Have you ever taken an _____ dislike to someone? Why? _____
- 2 When did you last have to stick _____ for yourself? Why? _____
- 3 When did you last pay someone a _____? What for? _____
- 4 Do you find it difficult to criticize people to their _____? _____
- 5 Do you think your life is getting better as time _____ by? _____

ABOUT YOU

4 ABOUT YOU Write your answers to Exercise 3, or ask another student.

B Successful relationships

Now, two years on, **things** are **looking up**. **Initially** the kids were **reluctant** to **accept** me and **made things difficult**, but I gave up work to spend more time with them, and that's helped to create a closer **bond**.

I've **gained** their **respect** in other ways, too – they're prepared to **confide in** me now, especially the younger one. Vince and I still have our **ups and downs** – who doesn't? – but I know he **appreciates** the **sacrifices** I've **made**, and **the way things** are now, I'm feeling optimistic.



spotlight accept

Accept has other meanings apart from saying 'yes' to an offer.

- 1 allow sb to be part of a group:
*They **accepted me** as one of the family.*
- 2 agree to sth:
*The council has **accepted** the latest proposal.*
- 3 believe that sth is true:
*He won't **accept that** nothing can be changed.*
- 4 admit you did sth wrong:
*He **accepts responsibility** for the accident.*

Glossary

things USU. PL used to talk about a situation or life in general (e.g. **the way things are**; **make things difficult**; **how are things?**).

look up INF (used about sb's situation or business) start to become better.

initially in the beginning. **initial** ADJ.

reluctant not wanting to do sth.

SYN **unwilling**. **reluctance** N.

bond a connection between people based on shared feelings or experiences.

respect (for sb) a feeling of admiration for sb because of their qualities. (You can **gain**, **earn**, or **win sb's respect**.) **respect** V.

confide in sb tell sb personal information because you trust them.

ups and downs a mixture of good and bad things in life or a relationship.

appreciate sth recognize sth and welcome it. **appreciation** N.

make a sacrifice give up sth important or valuable in order to do sth that seems more important. **sacrifice sth** V.

5 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

- 1 He's fully accepted to our decision. _____
- 2 She feels she can confide with me. _____
- 3 I think they all respect for him. _____
- 4 The initially problem was money. _____
- 5 I regret his reluctant to go. _____
- 6 It took time to hold their respect. _____

6 Replace the underlined word/phrase with another word/phrase that has the same meaning.

- 1 How's life? _____
- 2 They were very unwilling to leave. _____
- 3 She recognizes and is grateful for everything you've done. _____
- 4 In the beginning it was a difficult relationship. _____
- 5 He is prepared to take responsibility for what happened. _____
- 6 There is widespread admiration for what he has achieved. _____
- 7 We've had good times and bad times in our relationship. _____
- 8 I had a tough time last year but things are improving now. _____
- 9 I like the situation as it is. _____
- 10 Because of the special connection parents have with their children, they often give up many important things for them. _____



Remember to test yourself

YOU AND OTHER PEOPLE 51