

Challenges 3

Speaking: Generation Gap

Warm-up

1. Which of these things do you argue about with your parents?

- homework - your clothes - your room
- playing computer games - watching TV
- your hair - your friends - your mobile phone
- making phone calls** at home - getting home late
- doing household chores**
- playing music too loud
- having a tattoo or body piercing



Reading

2. Read the magazine article. Which of the things in Exercise 1 do the people argue about?

What do you argue about at home?

We asked three teenagers (and their parents!).

Andy: My mum's a bit irritating. I mean, I'm nearly sixteen and she won't let me have an earring. We argue about homework and she makes me go to extra classes after school. When she goes out, I can't use the computer because she won't tell me the password for it!

Susan: I'm very proud of him. He's very creative and he **does well** at school but he's a bit lazy about **doing his homework** – he prefers playing computer games! He can be stubborn, too and hates it when people tell him what to do. He wants an earring but I think I'll make him wait until he's eighteen!

Jessica: I love my mum but we argue a lot these days. She says I'm always late home but I'm not. And she says it's my fault our phone bills are so big! She gets angry when I fail school exams. She says I don't **make an effort** in some subjects but I **do my best** – most of the time!

Karen: She **makes friends** easily. She's very outgoing, like me and loves to chat with her friends – she spends hours on the phone! I let her go out at weekends but she sometimes forgets to ring me up when she's late. She's a bit moody, too, especially in the morning. I was exactly the same at her age!

Edward: My dad can be so embarrassing. When my friends come round, he tries to be 'funny'. We don't argue much but he **makes a fuss** about my room. I know where to find everything but he says it's untidy. He makes me tidy it at weekends.

George: We like a lot of the same music and films. I think there's less of a generation gap these days. Of course, he's annoying sometimes, that's only natural. His room is a disaster zone. He won't **make his bed** and he **makes a mess** in the living room, too. He never offers to **do the washing-up** – I have to make him do it!

3. Which person from the article could say these things?

1. If you don't get off that phone, you'll have to pay the bill yourself! *Karen*
2. It's not fair! All my friends have got earrings.
3. I won't let you out unless you make your bed.
4. They don't think you're funny, you know.
5. I know I failed but I worked hard. Honestly! It was just a difficult exam.
6. Turn the computer off! It's time to do your homework.

4. Look at the World Builder. Find these words in blue in the text and Exercise 1. Copy and complete the table.

household chores, a fuss, an effort, my best, homework, well, friends, phone calls, your bed, a mess, the washing-up

Word Builder	
make	a fuss
do	

Speaking

5. Look at the expressions from two arguments. Who says them? A teenager (T) or a parent (P)?

1. Where have you been?
2. Can I have a ...? Why not?
3. Oh, please. I just want a small one on my shoulder.
4. Why are you late?
5. Why didn't you phone home?
6. It's not fair. All my friends have got them.
7. You never listen to me.
8. Everyone else stays out late.
9. I'll pay for it with my own money.
10. You're too young to have a ...

6. Work in pairs. Roleplay two situations.

Student A

Roleplay 1

It is eleven o'clock on a Saturday night. You are a parent. Your fifteen-year-old son/daughter is out with friends. You think he/she went to a youth club but you are not sure. He/she has got a mobile phone. He/she usually comes home about ten o'clock. You are worried. Then he/she comes through the door.

You start, e.g. *Where have you been?*

Student B

Roleplay 1

You are 15 years old. It is eleven o'clock on a Saturday night and you are going into your house. You went out at seven o'clock with your friends to a youth club. You usually go home about ten o'clock but tonight you are late. Why? Why didn't you phone your parents on your mobile?

Your mother/father speaks as you go in the door.

Student A

Roleplay 2

You are fifteen years old. You want to get a tattoo. (what part of your body?) Your parents won't let you. It is breakfast time and you are at the table with your mother or father. You raise the subject again.

You start, e.g. *Er, can I ask you something?*

Student B

Roleplay 2

You are a parent. Your son/daughter wants to get a tattoo. You and your husband/wife don't want him/her to get a tattoo. It is breakfast time.

Your son/daughter raises the subject again.