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## BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

# Noisy neighbours biggest problem

#### 18th September, 2014



Do you get on well with your neighbours, or are the people living next door stressful? A new report says that quarter of people in Britain have had problems with their neighbours in the past year. The survey was

carried out by an organization called "Which?" It tries to help and protect consumers. The researchers asked 2,062 adults about their relations with neighbours. They found that 27 per cent had experienced problems. "Which?" said on its website that: "Half [of the people] were left feeling angry and half felt irritable, with 42 per cent saying they felt stressed, and one in ten admitted to feeling afraid." It added: "The survey also found that 64 per cent didn't know where to go to seek help and advice."

The biggest complaints about neighbours were loud voices and the sound of arguing. Loud music and televisions, and doors slamming were also a problem. People also described drug use and police arriving at their neighbour's house. Only one-third of people spoke to the noisy neighbour about the problem. However, people said the problem became worse if the neighbour did not apologise or continued with their annoying behaviour. "Which?" said 86 per cent of young people (those aged 18-24) did not know where to go to get advice. A "Which?" spokesperson said: "Our research has found that young people especially are suffering in silence." "Which?" said people needed to keep a diary of unneighbourly behaviour.

Sources: BBC / Which? / AOL.com

### Writing

It is very important to get on well with your neighbours. Discuss.

#### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

next door / stressful / problems / the past year / consumers / angry / afraid / advice / complaints / loud voices / arguing / apologise / research / suffering in silence / diary

#### True / False

- a) A quarter of people in the UK have problems with their neighbours. T / F
- b) Researchers interviewed over 20,000 people about their neighbours. T / F
- c) Over half of people in the UK feel stressed about their neighbours. T / F
- d) Most people do not know how to get advice about neighbours. T / F
- e) The biggest complaint about neighbours was noise. T / F
- f) Less than a quarter of people spoke to neighbours about problems. T / F
- g) The article said the problem went away after talking to a neighbour. T / F
- h) A consumer organization recommended people keep a diary. T/F

#### Synonym Match

10.

diary

1.	get on well with	a.	quarreling
2	quarter	b.	look for
3.	carried out	c.	say sorry
4.	relations	d.	conducted
5.	seek	e.	25%
6.	arguing	f.	journal
7.	apologise	g.	dealings
8.	behaviour	h.	hurting
9.	suffering	i.	actions

#### Discussion – Student A

- a) What is the best thing your neighbours do?
- b) What do you do if your neighbours are noisy?

get along well with

- c) Who is your most interesting neighbour?
- d) Have you ever apologised to a neighbour? Why?
- e) Would you speak to a neighbour if he/she annoyed you?
- f) What would you say to people who "suffer in silence"?
- g) What's the best way to be a good neighbour?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Noisy neighbours biggest problem

1. What % of people in Britian have had problems with their neighbours in the past year?

2. Who carried out this survey?
What do they try to do?

3. How many adults were questioned?

4. How did people feel when they experienced problems?

5. What % don't know where to go to seek help and advice?

6. What were the biggest complaints about neighbours?
What were other complaints?

7. What do you think a neighbour should do if they have a complaint?

8. Complete this sentence.
A good neighbour should or should be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. Have you ever had problems with your neighbours?

If yes, what?