

# 7A Don't argue!

## 1 GRAMMAR past modals: *must have*, etc.

a Complete the sentences with *must have*, *might have* or *can't have* and the verbs in brackets.

- You must have been delighted when you passed your driving test – it was your first time wasn't it? (be)
- I'm not sure where Mark is, but he \_\_\_\_\_ home. He wasn't feeling well earlier on. (go)
- You \_\_\_\_\_ my parents at the supermarket. They're away on holiday. (see)
- I don't know why Ruth hasn't arrived yet, but she \_\_\_\_\_ the wrong bus. (take)
- The 'For Sale' sign is still up outside their house. They \_\_\_\_\_ yet. (move)
- Those boys look really guilty. They \_\_\_\_\_ something wrong. (do)



b Complete the sentences using *should* | *shouldn't* | *ought to* | *oughtn't to have* + a verb from the box.

buy   dress up   fill up   go off  
leave   shout   stay up   take

- My brother isn't talking to me. I shouldn't have shouted at him.
- We're running out of petrol. We \_\_\_\_\_ at the last garage.
- Someone has taken Ben's smartphone. He \_\_\_\_\_ it on his desk.
- You won't be able to walk in those shoes. You \_\_\_\_\_ such high heels.
- Jessie missed her train. She \_\_\_\_\_ a taxi to the station.
- Your cousins look really scruffy. They \_\_\_\_\_ for the wedding.
- My alarm clock isn't working. It \_\_\_\_\_ at half past seven.
- I had a nightmare last night. I \_\_\_\_\_ to watch that horror film.

c Complete the sentences with the words in the box. Use the past form of the modal verbs.

must / tell	might / leave	can't / be
may / fall	can't / see	must / forget
might / not / hear	may / not / have	

- I wonder where my gloves are. I might have left them in the car or maybe in the hall.
- My father knew about the surprise party. Someone \_\_\_\_\_ him about it.
- I don't understand how the accident happened. The driver \_\_\_\_\_ asleep.
- Adam passed the exam without studying. It \_\_\_\_\_ very difficult.
- I'm sure my grandmother was in, but she didn't answer the door. She \_\_\_\_\_ the bell.
- When I got up this morning, the TV was still on in the living room. You \_\_\_\_\_ to turn it off.
- The children didn't make their beds this morning. They \_\_\_\_\_ time.
- A Your boyfriend walked past me without saying hello.  
B He \_\_\_\_\_ you.



## 2 READING

a Read the text quickly and answer the questions.

- 1 What is the problem with online arguments?
- 2 What does Professor Markman think is the solution?

### Internet rage: a new trend?

Until now, people have usually carried out their arguments face-to-face. A disagreement occurs and each side wants to make his or her views known. But the internet has changed all this. Today, more and more people are getting involved in arguments online.

Many of these take place in the comments section following on from articles on news websites. The tone of some of the posts on these threads can be extremely aggressive. So why is everyone so angry on the internet?

Art Markman, a professor of psychology at the University of Texas, has an explanation for this. Firstly, he points out that the people who post these comments are anonymous. Nobody knows their real name or who they are, which means that they do not have to explain their actions. Secondly, the commenter and the person who is the target of their anger are not actually in the same room. The distance between them makes the commenter lose his inhibitions and so he becomes more offensive. Thirdly, it is much easier to be nasty in writing than in speech, according to Professor Markman.

Although Professor Markman believes in self-expression, he regards online arguments as a complete waste of time. He says that the whole point of an argument is to try to persuade someone else to agree with you. In order to do this, the people involved have to listen to each other. This sort of interaction is lacking on the internet, says Professor Markman. Exchanges on comment threads do not happen in real time and so people have longer to focus on their opinion and write lengthy monologues to justify themselves. In the process, they become even more convinced that they are right, and they stop listening to other people. In the end, there is a complete absence of communication and the only thing they have achieved is to work themselves up into a rage.

So, what is the solution? Professor Markman does not think that comment threads should be banned, but he does think that controls should be stricter. In his view, it is the news outlets themselves who should be responsible for the content of the thread. 'If, on a website, comments are left up that are making personal attacks in the nastiest way, you're sending the message that this is acceptable human behaviour', he says. Professor Markman would like site administrators to remove the offending remarks from the comment thread. 'Having a conversation with someone you don't agree with is a skill,' he says. Unfortunately, it seems to be a skill that some commenters are not familiar with.



b Read the text again and choose the right answers.

- 1 Arguments on the internet occur most frequently when someone...
  - a expresses an opinion in the wrong way.
  - b has a negative opinion about a website.
  - c disagrees with a comment about an article.
- 2 According to Professor Markman, arguments online are more aggressive than face-to-face arguments because the commenter...
  - a lives in a different town or country.
  - b doesn't disclose their identity.
  - c is experienced in commenting on articles.
- 3 Professor Markman thinks that online arguments have no value because people tend to...
  - a spend too long reading other people's views.
  - b make too many mistakes in their comments.
  - c ignore other people's opinions.
- 4 In Professor Markman's view, an online argument usually results in the participants...
  - a feeling angry.
  - b avoiding a particular website.
  - c writing fewer comments in the future.
- 5 Professor Markman believes that news websites should...
  - a stop allowing people to comment on their articles.
  - b monitor comment threads more carefully.
  - c prohibit certain people from posting comments.

c Look at the highlighted words and phrases in the text and try to work out their meaning. Then use them to complete the sentences.

- 1 She had a particularly nasty customer last week, who made her cry.
- 2 I was the \_\_\_\_\_ of a lot of criticism after the article I wrote last week.
- 3 Since he retired, he has been \_\_\_\_\_ local politics.
- 4 When he was a child he used to get into a \_\_\_\_\_ when he didn't get what he wanted.
- 5 I found your comment about my friend's appearance extremely \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 The police will \_\_\_\_\_ any vehicles which are illegally parked.
- 7 I feel there is something \_\_\_\_\_ in my life.
- 8 Internet \_\_\_\_\_ are often dominated by a small number of angry people.

### 3 VOCABULARY verbs often confused

a Choose the correct verbs.

- 1 I wish / hope they'll accept my credit card as I don't have enough cash.
- 2 I don't *mind* / *matter* where we go. The important thing is to have a holiday.
- 3 My daughter will do anything to *avoid* / *prevent* doing housework. She's really lazy.
- 4 *Remember* / *Remind* me to send my dad a card. It's his birthday next week.
- 5 My boyfriend and I often *argue* / *discuss* about his friends. I really don't like them.
- 6 Susan *looks* / *seems* really unhappy in her new job. She was telling me about it on the phone today.
- 7 I didn't *notice* / *realize* what the thief was wearing. It was too dark to see anything.

b Complete the sentences with the correct verb from each pair in the past simple.

advise / warn    beat / win    deny / refuse  
expect / wait    lay / lie    raise / rise    rob / steal

- 1 The tour guide warned us that the area was dangerous at night.
- 2 I \_\_\_\_\_ our team to lose, but in the end they won.
- 3 Scotland \_\_\_\_\_ Ireland 3-2.
- 4 Somebody \_\_\_\_\_ me while I was asleep. They took my credit cards and all my money.
- 5 My colleague \_\_\_\_\_ taking the file, but I saw it later on his desk.
- 6 Last year we just \_\_\_\_\_ on the beach all day when we were on holiday.
- 7 House prices \_\_\_\_\_ last month for the first time this year.

### 4 MINI GRAMMAR would rather

Rewrite the sentences using *would rather*.

- 1 I'd prefer to sit by the window than next to the aisle.  
I'd rather sit by the window than next to the aisle.
- 2 What do you want to do, stay in or go out?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 I don't really want to cook tonight if you don't mind.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Where do you want to go, Greece or Italy?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 I'd prefer to walk than take the car.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 I don't really want to go to the cinema if you don't mind.  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 5 PRONUNCIATION sentence stress

a **iChecker** Listen and repeat the second sentences. Copy the rhythm.

- 1 They're taking Steve to hospital. He **might** have **broken** a **bone**.
- 2 Diana isn't here yet. She **can't** have **got** my **message**.
- 3 It was only a joke. She **shouldn't** have got so angry.
- 4 This restaurant is packed. We **should** have **booked** a table.
- 5 I didn't hear the phone. I **must** have **been** asleep.
- 6 Becky and Ian haven't come to the party. They **may** have **forgotten** about it.

### 6 LISTENING

a **iChecker** Listen to five speakers talking about a time when they had an argument with someone. Where did the arguments start?

- 1 In the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 In the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 In the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 In the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 At \_\_\_\_\_.

b Listen again and write the number of the speaker in each box.

The argument finished when somebody...

- A  confirmed who was right.  
B  realized they had forgotten something.  
C  said something unrelated to the conversation.  
D  made a terrible mess.  
E  physically removed one of the people involved.

c Listen again with the audioscript on p.74 and try to guess the meaning of any words that you don't know. Then check in your dictionary.

### USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Learn these words and phrases.

- avoid confrontation /ə'vɔɪd kɒnfrən'teɪʃn/  
back up (an argument) /bæk ʌp/  
bother (v) /'bɒðə/  
bring up (a topic of conversation) /brɪŋ ʌp/  
blame (sb for doing sth) /bleɪm/  
change the subject /tʃeɪndʒ ðə 'sʌbdʒɪkt/  
insult (sb) /ɪn'sʌlt/  
insult (n) /'ɪnsʌlt/  
threaten /'θreɪn/  
swear word /'swɛə wɜ:d/