

7A Don't argue!



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

- a (4 2)) Look at the photos. What do you think the people are arguing about in each photo? What were the arguments about? Listen and check.
- b (4 3)) Listen to some extracts from the conversations again and complete them with *may have, might have, must have, can't have, or should have*.

Conversation 1

- 1 You _____ finished it.
 2 You _____ given it to the cat last night.
 3 I _____ given it to the cat.

Conversation 2

- 4 Oh no! We _____ gone wrong.
 5 We _____ taken the second exit at the roundabout.
 6 OK, I _____ made a mistake.

- c In pairs, put **A, B, C, or D** in the box before each phrase. Which phrase (or phrases) in **b** means you think...?
- A it's very probable (or almost certain) that something happened or somebody did something
 B it's possible that something happened or somebody did something
 C it's impossible that something happened or somebody did something
 D somebody did something wrong
- d ► p.144 Grammar Bank 7A. Learn more about past modals, and practise them.

2 PRONUNCIATION

weak form of *have*

- a (4 6)) Listen to the extracts from the conversations in **1b** again. Underline the stressed words. How is *have* pronounced?
- b In pairs, read the conversations and complete **B's** responses with your own ideas (for responses 5–8 you also need to use *must have, might have, should have, or can't have*). Then practise the conversations.
- 1 A It was my birthday yesterday!
 B You should have told me.
- 2 A I can't find my phone anywhere.
 B You must have _____.
- 3 A I definitely said we were meeting them at 7.00.
 B They may have _____.
- 4 A I'm so tired. I can't keep my eyes open.
 B You shouldn't have _____.
- 5 A I failed my piano exam.
 B _____.
- 6 A Why do you think Fiona and Brian broke up?
 B _____.
- 7 A Alberto didn't come to class yesterday.
 B _____.
- 8 A We're going to be late. There's so much traffic.
 B _____.

3 READING & SPEAKING

a In your experience, what do couples typically argue about? Do you think men and women use different strategies when they argue? In what way?

b Read an article about how men and women argue. Does it mention any of the strategies you talked about?

c Now read the article again and mark the sentences T (true) or F (false). Underline the parts of the article that give you the answers.

- 1 The argument Deborah Cameron describes happened because a wife considered her husband responsible for an accident she had.
 - 2 In Papua New Guinea when a woman is arguing with her husband, he's supposed to reply to his wife's insults.
 - 3 John Gray says that men are more assertive in arguments than women.
 - 4 Edward thinks that he could win arguments more often if he were better prepared.
 - 5 Christine Northam says that older men are less able than younger men to talk about their feelings.
 - 6 She says that some women start crying during arguments only because they get truly upset.
 - 7 Sarah thinks that her boyfriend is insensitive to her crying.
 - 8 Christine Northam believes it is not difficult to learn new ways of dealing with arguments.
- d Look at the **highlighted** words and phrases which are related to arguing. With a partner, try to work out what they mean and then check with a dictionary or the teacher.
- e Do you agree with what the text says about the different way men and women argue?

HOW MEN AND WOMEN ARGUE

Damian Whitworth investigates gender differences when couples argue.

1 In Gapun, a remote village in Papua New Guinea, the women take a very direct approach to arguing. Linguist Deborah Cameron tells of an argument between a husband and wife. It started after the woman fell through a hole in the rotten floor of their home and she **blamed** her husband. He hit her with a piece of sugar cane, so she **threatened** to attack him with a machete and burn the house to the ground. At this point the husband decided to leave and she launched into a *kros* – a traditional angry tirade of **insults and swear words** – directed at a husband with the intention of it being heard by everyone in the village.

'YOU ARE A ?!&#@!! YOU ARE A ?!&#@! RUBBISH MAN, YOU HEAR? YOU BUILT ME A HOUSE THAT I JUST FALL DOWN IN, THEN YOU GET UP AND HIT ME WITH A PIECE OF SUGAR CANE, YOU ?!&#@!!'

13 **The fury** can last for up to 45 minutes, during which time the husband is expected to keep quiet. Such a domestic scene may be familiar to some readers, but, for most of us, arguing with our partners is not quite such an explosive business!

Human beings argue about everything but are there any differences between the sexes in the way that we argue?

20 In fact, according to John Gray, author of *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* (the 1990s best-seller) – men prefer not to argue at all, wherever possible. 'To avoid confrontation men may retire into their caves and never come out. They refuse to talk and nothing gets resolved. Men would rather keep quiet and avoid talking about any topics that may cause an argument.' Women, however, are quite happy to **bring up** relationship matters that they would like to change.

25 Edward, 37, a writer, says 'I'm useless at arguing. There are things that **bother me** about my partner, but when I finally say something I am too slow to win the argument. I can only argue properly when I have all the evidence to **back up my argument** ready to use, but I'm too lazy to do that. I think women, on the whole, are more practised at arguing, or more interested.'

30 Christine Northam, a counsellor with Relate, the marriage-counselling service, agrees with the view that men have a greater tendency to withdraw. 'Women say: "He won't respond to me, he won't listen, he thinks he's right all the time." However, the younger men that I see tend to be much more willing to understand their own feelings and talk about them. Older men find it more difficult.'

40 However she adds that women are also capable of the withdrawal technique. 'Oh yes, women are quite good at doing that as well. They **change the subject** or cry. Crying is a good tactic and then the poor man says: "Oh, my God, she's in tears".'

45 'I don't argue a lot, but I do cry a lot,' says Sarah, 32, an advertising executive. 'I'll say something **hurtful** to him and he'll say something equally hurtful back and then I'll be **in floods of tears**. I call my friend and she says: "Where are you?" "In the loo*," I say. And then, when I finally come out after half an hour, he's just watching TV as if nothing has happened.'

50 Northam says, 'Everything goes back to our upbringing, the stereotypical stuff we have all been fed. We are very influenced by the way our parents were, or even our grandparents. The way you deal with emotions is learnt in your family. To understand this, and then make a conscious decision that you will do it differently requires a lot of maturity.'

*loo informal = toilet

4 LISTENING & SPEAKING



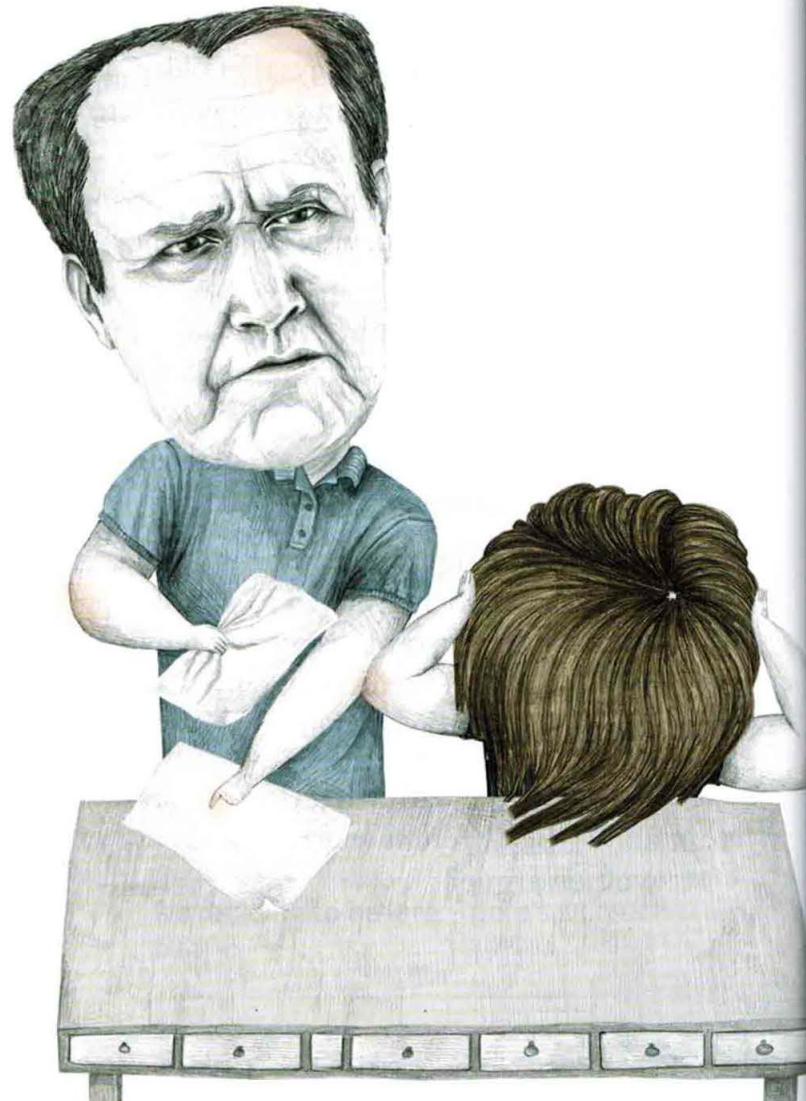
a (47)) You're going to listen to a psychologist giving some tips to help people when they disagree with somebody about something. Listen once and tick (✓) the six things she says.

- 1 Think carefully what to say when you begin a discussion.
- 2 Try to 'win' the argument as quickly as you can.
- 3 Say sorry if something really is your fault.
- 4 Never avoid an argument by refusing to talk.
- 5 Don't say things that aren't completely true.
- 6 Don't shout.
- 7 Don't talk about things that aren't relevant to the argument.
- 8 Use another person to mediate.
- 9 Postpone the argument until later when you have both calmed down.
- 10 It's a bad thing for a couple to argue.

b Listen again and with a partner, try to add more detail to the tips you ticked.

c (48)) Look at the sentences from the listening and try to work out what the missing words are. Then listen and check.

- 1 But of course it's **easier said** _____.
 - 2 If you're the person who's _____ **the** _____, just admit it!
 - 3 ...it's important to _____ **things** _____ **control**...
 - 4 Raising your voice will just make the other person _____ **their** _____, too.
 - 5 ...stop for a moment and _____ **a** _____ **breath**.
 - 6 It's also very important to _____ **the point**.
 - 7 There's much more chance that you'll be able to _____ **an** _____.
 - 8 ..._____ **conflict** is an important part of any relationship...
- d With a partner, decide which two of the psychologist's tips you think are the most useful, and why they're useful.
- e ► **Communication Argument! A p.107 B p.110.** Role-play two arguments with a partner.
- f Did you follow any of the psychologist's advice about how to argue? Was there anything you should / shouldn't have done? Is there anything your partner should / shouldn't have said?



5 MINI GRAMMAR *would rather*

Men **would rather** keep quiet and avoid talking about any topics that may cause an argument.

Listen, **I'd rather** talk about this tomorrow when we've both calmed down.

- We use *would rather* with the infinitive without *to* as an alternative to *would prefer*, e.g.
I'd rather go on holiday in July than August.
Would you rather stay in or go out tonight?
I'd rather not go out tonight. I'm really tired.
NOT *I'd not rather*.
- We can also use *would rather* + person + past tense to talk about what we would prefer another person to do.
I'd rather you didn't smoke in here, if you don't mind.

a Re-write the sentences using *would rather*.

- I'd prefer to go to the cinema than to a club.
- I'd prefer not to go to the party if my ex is going to be there.
- Would you prefer to meet on Thursday morning or afternoon?
- My wife would prefer not to fly. She had a bad experience once.
- My husband would prefer to get a train to Manchester, not take the car.
- I'd prefer to come on Sunday, if that's OK.

b Work in pairs. Look at the options and take turns to ask and answer with *Would you rather...?* Say why.

- do an English course in London or New York
- have a summer holiday or a winter holiday
- work for yourself or work for a company
- go to a foreign restaurant for dinner or to a restaurant which serves food from your country
- read an e-book or a normal book
- have a four-by-four or a small sports car
- go to a concert or a sporting event
- live on your own or share a flat with friends

Would you rather do an English course in London or New York? *I'd rather do a course in New York because...*

6 VOCABULARY verbs often confused

- a Look at some extracts from the listening in 4. **Circle** the correct verb. What does the other verb mean?
- Try not to say...you never *remind* / *remember* to buy the toothpaste.
 - If you follow these tips, you may often be able to *prevent* / *avoid* an argument.
 - The most important thing is not to *rise* / *raise* your voice.
- b ► p.158 Vocabulary Bank *Verbs often confused*.
- c Complete the questions with the verbs from each pair in the right form. Then ask and answer with a partner.



- Do you _____ if people are a bit late when you have arranged to meet them, or do you think it doesn't _____? **matter** / **mind**
- Can you usually _____ family birthdays, or do you need somebody to _____ you? **remember** / **remind**
- Have you ever been _____ when you were on holiday? What was _____? **steal** / **rob**
- What would you _____ people to do if they want to come to your country in the summer? What might you _____ them to be careful about? **advise** / **warn**
- Do you think taking vitamin C helps to _____ colds? What other things can people do to _____ catching colds? **avoid** / **prevent**

7 4 10))) SONG *My Girl* 🎵