

Building bridges

Language focus

- Vocabulary to describe relationships
- Phrasal verbs for feelings
- Idioms

1 Friends and family

a) Discuss the following questions.

- Do you live with your family or do you live alone? If you live alone, how old were you when you left home?
- What are the good and the bad things about leaving home?

b) Fair-weather friends are people who are there for you as long as everything is okay; foul-weather friends stand by you through thick and thin.

What's your personal experience of the difference?



2 Enough is enough!

Make a list of 10 things that for you would be crossing the line in any friendship.

Useful language

- *One thing I wouldn't stand for was being talked about behind my back.*
- *One thing I wouldn't put up with was broken promises.*
- *For me, the last straw would be being lied to.*

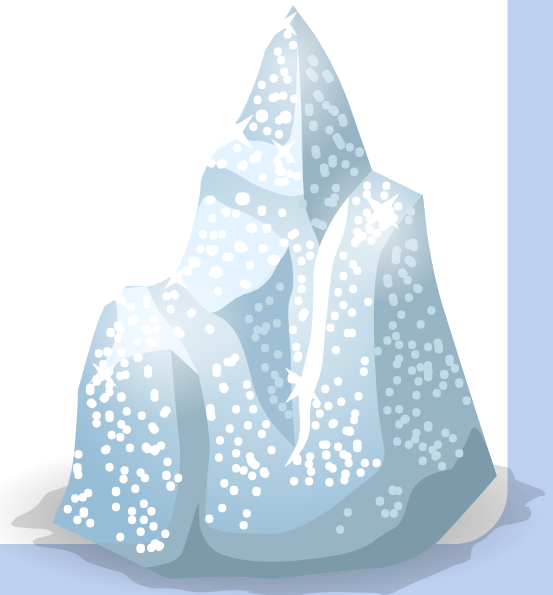
3 You're on thin ice!!

Talk about the little things couples bicker about ... and the big things they break up over!

Do you agree?

Useful language

- Sometimes people just argue about the small things, like who's supposed to do the chores around the house.
- It's easy for tensions to rise when life gets stressful or we're dealing with outside pressures.
- It can be hard to fix things when one person breaks the trust with a serious lie.



4 Making up

What are the best ways to solve some of the minor disputes you described in Exercise 3?

What does it take to fix the major ones?

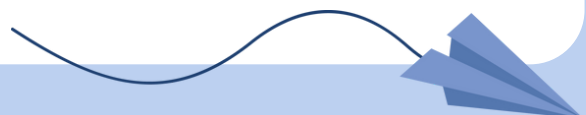


5 Apologizing

Which of the following ways to say sorry do you like most? Which do you like least?

1. "I realize I made a mistake and I want to make things right."
2. "I apologize for what I did and for hurting you."
3. "I know I can change if you give me the chance."
4. "I really want to learn from this experience and make things better."
5. "I want to make it up to you and get your trust back."

Think of other ways to say you're sorry.



6

Discuss

- What are some of the typical ways that people grovel when they're in the dog house?
- What's the best way to win someone over when you're in their bad books?
- Is it a good idea to get back in touch with an old flame? What are the potential pitfalls?



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