

VOCABULARY getting on

1 Work in pairs and discuss.

- 1 Do you know your neighbours? How well do you know them?
- 2 Do you have a good relationship with them? Why?

2A Work in pairs. Match sentences 1–6 with the opposite meanings a)–f).

- 1 I **get on well with** my neighbour – she's always smiling.
 - 2 It's never a problem if I **ask a favour** of my neighbours.
 - 3 I prefer to **mind my own business** so I don't ask the neighbours personal questions.
 - 4 I sometimes **invite** my neighbour **over** for coffee.
 - 5 My neighbour's dog is a **nuisance** – he's always barking early in the morning.
 - 6 We didn't **get to know** our neighbours for years.
- a) My neighbour has pets but they never **disturb** me.
b) My neighbour **gets on my nerves** – he's always complaining.
c) We **made friends with** our neighbours immediately.
d) I like to **keep myself to myself** so my neighbour hasn't been in my house.
e) I'm always **doing favours** for my neighbours.
f) I can be quite **nosy** so I often ask my neighbours about their lives!

READING

3A Circle the option you think is correct to complete statements 1–4.

- 1 _____ of people in the UK say they know their neighbours.
(a) 27% (b) 50% (c) 77%
- 2 If you live in a flat, you probably know your neighbours _____ if you live in a house.
(a) better than (b) less than (c) about the same as
- 3 _____ year-olds are more likely to know their neighbours than people of other ages.
(a) 18–24 (b) 30–40 (c) 55–64
- 4 The people most likely to know their neighbours are: _____
(a) women (b) men (c) (neither. There is no difference between them.)

B Read the text to check your answers.

4 Answer the questions.

- 1 What question did the radio programme try to answer?
- 2 What is ICM and what did it do?
- 3 Which people who wrote to the website say they have a good relationship with their neighbours?
- 4 Which person says they had a bad start with a neighbour?



How well do you know your neighbours?

The BBC's iPM radio programme asks its listeners for interesting questions. One question that came up:

'I would like to ask a question about neighbours, by which I mean other people who live in your immediate neighbourhood. Many people we have spoken to have said they don't know any of their immediate neighbours.'

What about you? Do you know any of your immediate neighbours, in the sense of something more than exchanging 'Good morning' or 'Good afternoon', for example?

The BBC liked the question and found the answer. A research group called ICM asked people how well they know their neighbours and this is what they discovered.

Surprisingly, 77% of you say you know your neighbours. It also emerged that if you live in a house, regardless of town or rural area, a massive 80% of you know your neighbours. However, the figure drops to 75% if you're in a flat. The survey also revealed that we appear to get friendlier as we get older. In fact, only 64% of 18–24 year-olds know their neighbours, but for people aged 55–64 this number climbs to 88%. Interestingly enough, it turns out that men are a little less likely to say they know their neighbours than women, and the rich say they are closer to their neighbours than the less well-off.

The topic was very popular with lots of BBC listeners and provoked plenty of comments on the BBC's iPM website. Here are a few of the best:

I only really got to know mine when their house caught fire. We're good friends now.
RxKaren

When we moved into our house in Leeds three years ago, the first remark our neighbour made was, 'So you're moving in? I hope you don't have noisy kids.' We reassured him we had no children and tried to make conversation but with no success.
Loobygraham

I live in a small block of 16 flats. We all know each other and we have 8 nationalities living in these flats so we have our own mini United Nations! If I – or any of my neighbours – needed help or advice or assistance of any kind we could all knock on anyone's door and get it.
Jilcove

I'm a police officer. My neighbours are always extremely friendly. They probably think that if they have any problems, I'll rescue them.
Todd

GETTING ON

1A Match 1–6 with a)–f) to complete the sentences.

My neighbour:

- 1 is very helpful. For example,
 - 2 sometimes borrows my tools
 - 3 pops over most days, because
 - 4 lends me sugar or milk
 - 5 is really unfriendly. She
 - 6 is always gossiping
- a) but he never gives them back!
b) he fixed my car last year.
c) doesn't even say 'good morning'.
d) she likes to chat.
e) about people who live in the street.
f) if I need it.

B Underline the words/phrases in 1–6 which match definitions a)–f).

- a) comes to my house (informally)
- b) not friendly
- c) uses my possessions
- d) gives me things (which I will later return)
- e) helps a lot
- f) talking about other people (usually bad things)



VOCABULARY getting on

1 Put the pairs of words in the box into the correct places in sentences 1–10 below.

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- 1 Joachim gets ^{on well} with his mother, but he's always arguing with his father.
- 2 Can I favour? Would you mind opening the window for me?
- 3 Whenever they're arguing, I prefer to mind business. I don't get involved.
- 4 Hayley has invited for dinner at her house. Can we go?
- 5 Those neighbours are – they're always playing loud music and making a mess.
- 6 She got her neighbours immediately. They were really friendly and chatty.
- 7 Please don't. I'm trying to do some work.
- 8 One thing that gets nerves is when the neighbours have noisy parties!
- 9 Xun hasn't made her neighbours yet, but she only moved in last week.
- 10 I keep myself. I hate chatting about nothing – it's a waste of time.

ANSWER KEY:

VOCABULARY 2A 1b) 2e) 3f) 4d) 5a) 6c)

READING 3B 1c) 2b) 3c) 4a)

READING 4

1 How well do people know their neighbours neighbours ?

2 ICM is a research group. It asked people how well they know their neighbours.

3 RxKaren, Jilcove, Todd

4 Loobygraham

GETTING ON 1A 1 b) 2a) 3d) 4f) 5c) 6e)

1B a) pops over b) unfriendly c) borrows d) lends me e) helpful f) gossiping

VOCABULARY getting on

8.1

1

2 Can I **ask a** favour?

3 Whenever they're arguing, I prefer to mind **my own** business.

4 Hayley has invited **us over** for dinner at her house.

5 Those neighbours are **a nuisance** – they're always ...

6 She got **to know** her neighbours immediately.

7 Please don't **disturb me**.

8 One thing that gets **on my** nerves is when ...

9 Xun hasn't made **friends with** her neighbours yet ...

10 I keep myself **to myself**.