

## Lesson 51: Noisy neighbors

Hi! How are you today?

Today's lesson is about "*Noisy neighbors.*"

Have fun learning English!

### Warm-up | Useful Expressions

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**Directions:** Listen and repeat.

- **drive one up the wall** – to annoy or irritate someone
- **pain in the neck** – something that is bothersome and annoying
- **binge** – to do too much of something (usually eat and drink)
- **crank up music** – turn the volume up really loudly
- **soundproof** – being sound isolated so that no sound can get in/out of the room
- **disaster** – a sudden accident or a natural catastrophe that causes great damage or loss of life
- **tone down** – turn the sound volume down
- **sincerest** – honest, true, heartfelt
- **interfere** – to intervene or intrude; meddle
- **violation** – the action of breaking the rules

## Activity 1 | Dialogue 1

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**Directions:** Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher.

*Sarah is complaining to her friend Gale about her new neighbors.*

**Sarah** : Oh, how dare they! How dare they!

**Gale** : Hey, Sarah, what's wrong? Who made you so angry?

**Sarah** : I can't take this anymore. These people are **driving me up the wall!**

**Gale** : You mean your new neighbors? The ones who moved in two weeks ago?

**Sarah** : Yes, they're a **pain in the neck**. You know, they're having parties every night at home and **binge** drink all night! They **crank up** rock music and play an electric guitar and, what's even worse, they all sing along very loudly!

**Gale** : Whoa! Sounds like you're living next to a poorly **soundproofed** recording studio. I hope their songs are OK, at least.

**Sarah** : Those are not songs, they're noise pollution. My 3-year-old son sings much better than that!

**Gale** : That must be a **disaster**. Did you try talking to them?

**Sarah** : Of course I did. They said they would **tone it down**, but it didn't take a week until the loud music and awful songs were back! Oh, I have an idea! Why don't you try talking to them? Deliver my **sincerest** message to them.

**Gale** : Are you kidding? I don't want to **interfere!** They're tenants just like you, right? How about talking to the landlord? What they're doing must be a **violation** of the house rules.

**Sarah** : Yeah, that may actually do the trick. I'll phone him tomorrow morning. Thanks for the suggestion.

**Check your understanding:** Answer the following questions.

1. Why is Sarah unhappy with her new neighbors?
2. When did her new neighbors move in?
3. What did Sarah try to do to solve the problem?
4. What was Gale's advice?

## Activity 2 | Role Play

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**Directions:** Have a role play with your teacher.

**Situation 1:** Imagine you have just moved into a new apartment. You have a dog that sometimes barks at night. Your pet disturbs some of your neighbors; so one of them comes to talk to you. Apologize for the ruckus and try to persuade your neighbor that it won't happen again. The teacher will be your angry neighbor.

**Situation 2:** You are disturbed by your new neighbors who are always fighting and having scandals.

### Activity 3 | Free Conversation

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**Directions:** Take turns with your teacher in answering the questions

1. Are there any laws in your country that forbid people to be noisy?
2. Have you ever had a noisy neighbor?
3. Do you think it's best to call the police at once when your neighbors are being very noisy?
4. Do you like your neighbors? Why or why not?
5. Do you own, or do you rent a house/flat? Why?
6. How do you usually react when someone disturbs your sleep?