

Noisy neighbours biggest problem

18th September, 2014



Do you get on well with your neighbours, or are the people living next door stressful? A new report says that a quarter of people in Britain have had problems with their neighbours in the past year. The survey was carried out by an organization called "Which?" It tries to help and protect consumers. The researchers asked 2,062 adults about their relations with neighbours. They found that 27 per cent had experienced problems. "Which?" said on its website that: "Half [of the people] were left feeling angry and half felt irritable, with 42 per cent saying they felt stressed, and one in ten admitted to feeling afraid." It added: "The survey also found that 64 per cent didn't know where to go to seek help and advice."

The biggest complaints about neighbours were loud voices and the sound of arguing. Loud music and televisions, and doors slamming were also a problem. People also described drug use and police arriving at their neighbour's house. Only one-third of people spoke to the noisy neighbour about the problem. However, people said the problem became worse if the neighbour did not apologise or continued with their annoying behaviour. "Which?" said 86 per cent of young people (those aged 18-24) did not know where to go to get advice. A "Which?" spokesperson said: "Our research has found that young people especially are suffering in silence." "Which?" said people needed to keep a diary of unneighbourly behaviour.

Sources: BBC / Which? / AOL.com

Writing

It is very important to get on well with your neighbours. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

next door / stressful / problems / the past year / consumers / angry / afraid / advice / complaints / loud voices / arguing / apologise / research / suffering in silence / diary

True / False

- A quarter of people in the UK have problems with their neighbours. T / F
- Researchers interviewed over 20,000 people about their neighbours. T / F
- Over half of people in the UK feel stressed about their neighbours. T / F
- Most people do not know how to get advice about neighbours. T / F
- The biggest complaint about neighbours was noise. T / F
- Less than a quarter of people spoke to neighbours about problems. T / F
- The article said the problem went away after talking to a neighbour. T / F
- A consumer organization recommended people keep a diary. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. get on well with | a. quarreling |
| 2. quarter | b. look for |
| 3. carried out | c. say sorry |
| 4. relations | d. conducted |
| 5. seek | e. 25% |
| 6. arguing | f. journal |
| 7. apologise | g. dealings |
| 8. behaviour | h. hurting |
| 9. suffering | i. actions |
| 10. diary | j. get along well with |

Discussion – Student A

- What is the best thing your neighbours do?
- What do you do if your neighbours are noisy?
- Who is your most interesting neighbour?
- Have you ever apologised to a neighbour? Why?
- Would you speak to a neighbour if he/she annoyed you?
- What would you say to people who "suffer in silence"?
- What's the best way to be a good neighbour?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. get on
 2. a quarter
 3. in the
 4. one in
 5. where to go to seek
 6. loud voices and the sound
 7. doors
 8. drug
 9. people said the problem
 10. keep a diary of
- a. past year
 - b. of arguing
 - c. use
 - d. help and advice
 - e. became worse
 - f. well with
 - g. of people in Britain
 - h. unneighbourly behaviour
 - i. ten
 - j. slamming

Discussion – Student B

- a) Are you a good neighbour? Why do you think so?
- b) How important are good neighbours?
- c) Do you get on well with your neighbours?
- d) What's the worst experience you've had with a neighbour?
- e) What kind of neighbours do you have?
- f) What would you do if you were afraid of a neighbour?
- g) What do you do if someone new moves in next door?
- h) What do you think about what you read?

Spelling

1. are the people living next door luerstsf?
2. a rteurqa of people in Britain
3. help and protect nsceormsu
4. atlseorin with neighbours
5. half felt ltraiber
6. one in ten eitdatmd to feeling afraid
7. The biggest tcoaipnslm about neighbours
8. the neighbour did not oiglaspeo
9. where to go to get cdaeiv
10. young people cselplayie
11. suffering in celsnei
12. unneighbourly viueobarh

Answers – Synonym Match

1. j	2. e	3. d	4. g	5. b
6. a	7. c	8. i	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Being noisy

You think being noisy is the worst thing neighbours can do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least stressful of these (and why): using drugs, keeping rubbish (garbage) in the garden or never saying hello.

Role B – Using drugs

You think using drugs is the worst thing neighbours can do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least stressful of these (and why): being noisy, keeping rubbish (garbage) in the garden or never saying hello.

Role C – Rubbish (garbage) in the garden

You think keeping rubbish (garbage) in the garden is the worst thing neighbours can do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least stressful of these (and why): using drugs, being noisy or never saying hello.

Role D – Never saying hello

You think never saying hello is the worst thing neighbours can do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least stressful of these (and why): using drugs, keeping rubbish (garbage) in the garden or being noisy.

Speaking – Neighbours

Rank these with your partner. Put the most annoying things about neighbours at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- parties
- don't say hello
- untidy garden
- gossip
- loud voices
- arguing
- loud music
- slamming doors

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.