

Hypothetical situations in the present and past

Role card A

Your name is Derek/Doris and you're sitting in a doctor's waiting room. You are 50 years old and married, and there are lots of things in your life you're not happy about! Start a conversation with the person next to you and ask them questions about their life. During the conversation, tell them about the problems and regrets below. Try to convince your partner that your problems are worse than his/hers.

Health

- You have terrible asthma.
- You are allergic to cats.
- You ate some fish yesterday and were sick all night.

Holidays

- You went to the seaside on holiday last year and it rained all the time.
- You're going back there again this year because your husband/wife wants to.
- You would like to go to Australia, but you can't afford it.

House/Job

- You live in a small flat near a busy motorway.
- You would like a bigger flat, but you can't afford to move.
- You have a boring part-time job at a supermarket checkout.



Family

- Your husband/wife is too lazy to look for a job.
- Your three grown-up sons still live with you – you have no space for yourself.
- Your brother never phones you.

Neighbours

- The baby in the flat upstairs cries all the time.
- The people in the flat below always shout at each other.
- Their cat keeps coming into your flat.

Role card B

Your name is Albert/Alice and you're sitting in a doctor's waiting room. You are 50 years old and married, and there are lots of things in your life you're not happy about! Start a conversation with the person next to you and ask them questions about their life. During the conversation, tell them about the problems and regrets below. Try to convince your partner that your problems are worse than his/hers.

Health

- You have very bad headaches.
- You can't get to sleep at night.
- You picked up a television yesterday and hurt your back.

Holidays

- You went to India on holiday last year and were extremely ill.
- You can't go on holiday this year because you haven't got the time.
- You want your daughter to come and visit you, but she is terrified of flying.

House/Job

- You live in a big house very close to a chemical factory.
- You run your own business, so you don't have any spare time.
- You want to live in the country, but your husband/wife doesn't want to move house.



Family

- Your husband/wife has to work every weekend.
- Your daughter lives abroad – you haven't seen her for years.
- Your sister phones you every night – it drives you crazy!

Neighbours

- Your neighbour's dog barks all night.
- Your other neighbour throws his rubbish into your garden.
- He also plays very loud music every evening.

11C I wish he wouldn't do that!

Instructions

You will need: one pair of cards per pair of students

- Students work in pairs. Give one student Role card A and the other Role card B and allow them time to read the information. Pre-teach any difficult vocabulary.
- Elicit from students some questions people in a doctor's waiting room might ask each other to pass the time and write them up on the board. Include the following questions: *What's the matter with you? What do you do? Have you got any children? Whereabouts do you live? What are your neighbours like? Where did you go on holiday last year?*
- Students do the roleplay in pairs, using the questions on the board. They should use *I wish ...* or *If only ...* where appropriate. Encourage them to have a 'natural' conversation (rather than just reading out a list of wishes) and to try and persuade each other that their problems are worse than their partner's. They do not have to discuss the topics in the same order as on the Role cards, but they must try to cover all the points.
- Students report back to the class on who had the biggest problems.