

### Arrange the words

Here is a list of adjectives we might use to describe our neighbours. Place each word under one of the headings below.

nosey, friendly, fascinating, clever, jealous, lazy, mean, boastful, polite, inconsiderate, stylish, cheerful, generous, honest, imaginative, moody, patient, rude, sociable, flexible, obnoxious, carefree, irresponsible, cold

Things you want them to be

Things you don't want

Things that make no difference

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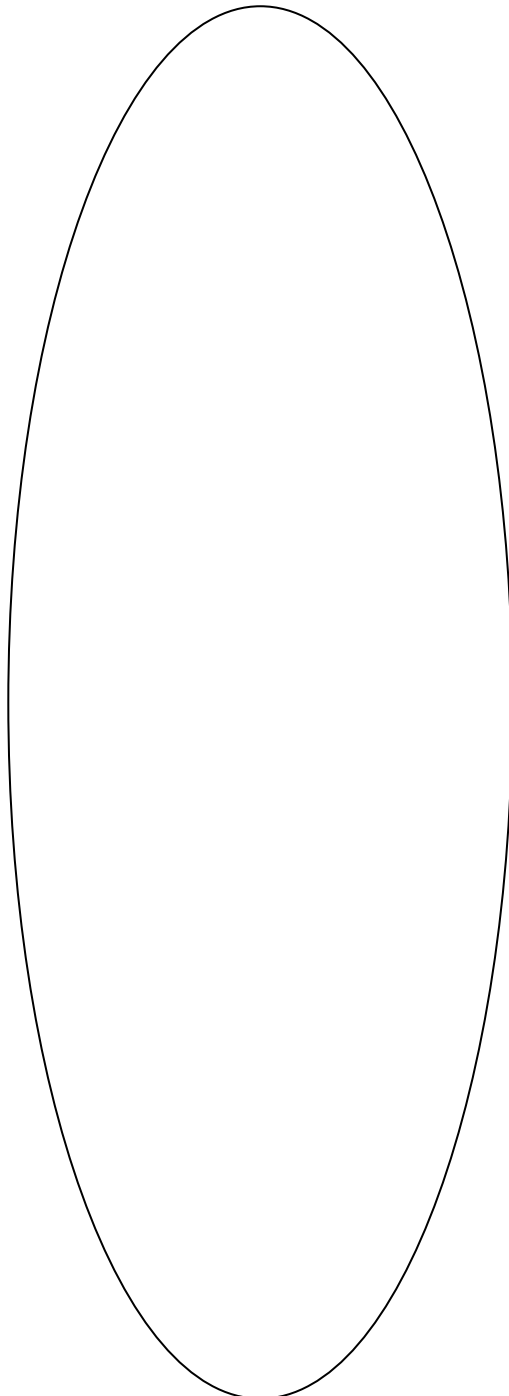
Choose your own neighbours!

**You're lucky, you own your flat and also the other flats in the same building, so you have some choice about who your neighbours are. This week there are two vacant flats, and you have six people or groups of people interested. So you have a choice, but in reality you need to decide quickly. One flat is the flat next to your baby's room, the other is the flat above you. You must decide who to let to, and make your decision today. Here are the choices, you have to choose two, and agree. Discuss them all first.**

<p><b>Tom and Paula Stereoblast</b></p> <p>Tom and Paula are decent people, and they have been recommended by your father. For this reason, you know you can trust them not to make serious problems for you. They are respectful and kind. The only problem is, they want to leave their jobs and become famous as singers. For this reason, they spend a lot of time writing and performing music, and you are worried this will make life uncomfortable.</p>	<p><b>Sarah Harddrive</b></p> <p>Sarah is a very shy person, almost introvert. She doesn't seem to have many friends, although she does have two good references from previous landlords. There is no suggestion that she will be a bad neighbour, she doesn't seem the type who would make a lot of noise, but there is something strange about her and you have your doubts. But she has a good job and you are sure she will pay the rent.</p>
<p><b>Jim Scrum'alf</b></p> <p>Jim is a nice man with a very very good job, quiet and responsible, but maybe not to himself. The problem is he is a rugby player, nothing wrong with that, but some rugby players like their beer, and their behaviour can be very bad. You know from past experience that these guys can't look after themselves, they are messy and dirty. You don't want to tar them all with the same brush, but do you want to take a chance?</p>	<p><b>Harry, Harriet and Harold Happy</b></p> <p>This family is new to the area, so nobody knows them. So although it's a risk, you were impressed when you met them, and you were pleased to see they have a young son the same age as yours. They have the same interests and personality as your family. But their car was old and in very poor condition. Does this mean they are a risk to your property?</p>
<p><b>Bill Rates</b></p> <p>Bill is a very nice man, but he's currently out of work and of course this is a risk for you because you need to be sure of your own income. You are 100% sure he is a responsible man, and there is plenty of evidence that he is searching for work, but until he finds it, can you take a chance?</p>	<p><b>Kevin and Bratney</b></p> <p>This couple are very sweet, they have jobs on TV and they seem devoted to their sons, who are a happy and playful pair of children. But there were some signs that the couple do not live a harmonious life, because they could not agree about <u>anything</u> during their 'interview' with you for the flat.</p>

**NOTE TO TEACHER, YOU WILL NEED TO MARK CHAIRS ROUND THE TABLE DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE YOU INCLUDE.**

You are fed up with neighbours bickering and arguing so you have decided to invite them all to dinner to hopefully sort the problems out in an amicable way. They have all accepted your invitation, and are coming later today. But there is a small problem, where is everybody going to sit. You need to discuss seating arrangements with your partner, and remember, it could cause big problems to get it wrong.



**You and your partner should sit at opposite ends of the table, so, places A and B.**

**Men and women should be seated alternately round the table. This does not apply for anybody sitting next to either of the hosts.**

Amy Eliot and Colin Smith are violently in love.

Jennifer Harvery, a colleague of Colin Smith, can tell funny stories but some people, including Mr Simons, are often offended by them.

Margaret Eliot is very polite but very boring.

Andy Masters is a very good listener with good people skills.

Neil Armstrong is a loud and rude man who drinks too much beer.

Mr Simons hates alcohol and offensive jokes, but he is politically very left wing and opinionated.

Mr Chasuble is a golf enthusiast who talks about nothing else.

Mrs Chasuble has poor table manners and is always complaining. She hates Andy Masters because they always argue about car parking.

Sarah Smith is angry with her son Colin for not marrying the woman she wanted him to. She has some life problems right now and needs somebody to talk to.

Alan Topple is a right wing politician. He isn't a bad man but many people are offended by his views, and he is always ready to argue with them. He doesn't get on with Margaret Eliot because she ran over his cat.

Mrs Smith is open minded but she can't sit near Amy Eliot because Amy smokes and Mrs Smith is allergic to cigarette smoke.

Jackson Pollock is an old man who still wants to get married. Keep him away from any single women.

Claire Kitkat is a widow who would like to get married again, but she can't sit near to anybody who drinks beer because she hates the smell.

*Adapted from an activity in Discussions that Work by Penny Ur, Cambridge University Press*

# Oh no, it's Smith and Jones!

**You live in a nice street with your family. It's very important to you that the area is peaceful, and until a few months ago it always was. Until the Smiths arrived! Oh no, the Smiths!**

**You have decided to meet them to tell them that you are not happy with their behaviour. They really cause you big problems, and you have to be firm when telling them this.**

**Here are some of the things that they do. You have to make them understand the problem. Can you agree, or reach a compromise?**

- The Smiths let a spare room to a man who you think is very strange. He follows you in the street and doesn't speak.
- They have some business interests, and people come knocking on their doors at any time of night.
- They play very loud music and have the TV on loud, and have regular wild parties.
- They have locked the gate to the water meter, so the water company can't get in to read the meter. This is illegal and could land you in trouble too.
- Their politics offends you. You want them to remove some of the political posters in the garden.
- They use bad language.
- They have a dangerous dog.

Think of some more things you can say.

# Oh no, it's Smith and Jones!

**You have recently moved to a new street. You are happy with the area and you want to stay, but you have some problems with your neighbours, the Jones family. The Joneses are angry with you because they think you are ruining the street, but you are upset about their attitude to you. They have asked to meet you to discuss this, and you agree, but remember, you are sure you are not bad neighbours.**

**Here are some of the things that they think. You have to make them understand that it's not too bad. Can you agree, or reach a compromise?**

- You let your spare room to a man who they think is very strange. He follows them in the street and doesn't speak. But the truth is he is a quiet man with learning disabilities who you are trying to help.
- You have some business interests, and people come knocking on your doors at any time of night. This is not a good situation but your business is charity and not commercial, it is to help homeless people and many of them do come to you in the night for food.
- According to the Joneses, you play very loud music and have the TV on loud, and have regular wild parties. You accept that the TV is on loud but one of your family has hearing problems. You deny that there are regular parties. You will try to improve the situation.
- They are angry that you have locked the gate to the water meter, so the water company can't get in to read the meter. This is illegal but you have done it to protect your young son, who might go in and hurt himself.
- They say that they are offended by your politics. Tell them you have the right to your views, you are not hurting anybody.
- They say you use bad language. You don't accept this, you just think they are angry and want to make you seem bad.
- They say your dog is dangerous. Tell them that it is always kept on a strong chain, and has never hurt anybody.

They might have some more complaints, be prepared.