

10 THE ART OF COMPLAINING

LESSON A • That really bugs me!

1 Grammar

1. The thing that really bothers me at the dinner table is people who make noise when they eat.
2. When I'm trying to sleep at night, something that irks me is water dripping in the sink.
3. One thing I can't understand in the supermarket is why people push in front of me in line.
4. The thing that really irritates me when I go to a restaurant is waiting a long time to be seated.
5. Something I can't stand is drivers who honk their horns all the time.
6. Something that bothers me about my new cell phone is how quickly the battery runs down.
7. When I'm watching TV, one thing that bugs me is when my favorite show is interrupted by a news bulletin.

2 Grammar

Answers will vary.

3 Grammar

Possible answers

1. The thing that annoys me on the road is when other drivers follow too closely.
2. The thing that bothers me in the park is when people don't put litter into the trash can.
3. Something that irks me in the library is when people talk too loudly.
4. When I'm riding on the subway, one thing that bothers me is when people take up more than one seat with their bags.

4 Vocabulary

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. gets | 5. gets |
| 2. drives | 6. gets |
| 3. makes | 7. drives / makes |
| 4. gets / makes | 8. makes |

5 Writing

A 2, 3, 4, 1

B a. 2 b. 4 c. 1 d. 3

C Answers will vary.

LESSON B • Let's do something about it!

1 Grammar

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. S | 3. S | 5. C | 7. C |
| 2. C | 4. C | 6. S | 8. S |

2 Grammar

1. Why the trains are running so slowly is a mystery to me.
2. One of my concerns is whether / if there will be cheaper health care for employees.
3. Why I get so much junk mail is something I can't understand.
4. What I don't get is how you can eat so much and not feel sick.
5. I wonder who I should call if I don't get my passport on time.
6. I'd like to know if / whether politicians will do more to help the environment.
7. Why people don't turn off their cell phones when they're at the movies is beyond me.
8. Why James can't get to work on time is the thing that concerns me.
9. Why I get a cold every summer is a mystery to me.
10. I want to find out if / whether someone used my tablet while I was out of the room.

3 Vocabulary

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. infuriated | 5. stunned |
| 2. saddened | 6. baffled |
| 3. depressed | 7. enraged |
| 4. humiliated | 8. annoyed |

4 Grammar

Answers will vary.

5 Reading

A a. 2 b. 3 c. 1

- B**
- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. gloom | 4. backfire |
| 2. misfortunes | 5. chipped |
| 3. sense of identity | 6. validation |