
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Take Away English 隨身英語

When neighbours go wrong

造成鄰里不和的種種因素



詞彙：neighbours 鄰居

Do you know the names of the people who live **next door**? Chances are you live next to someone, but do you actually know them? Sadly, the only time we do seem to hear about people's neighbours is when things go wrong – hearing people say things like they have the **neighbours from hell**! So, what does go wrong?

When talking about famous **feuds** with people who live in **proximity**, you only need to think of the Montagues and Capulets in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Thankfully, most real-life **quarrels** don't go that far. These days, especially in cities, many people live in **condominiums**, tightly packed into **apartment blocks**. Our neighbours are all around us – so what issues can come from that?

The first obvious cause of **dispute** is **noise pollution**. Loud **bass** pumping through the walls, construction, or people **arguing** next door can disrupt the **harmony** of your **living space**. Asking someone directly to turn the music down can cause you to feel anxious. However, getting someone like a **building manager** involved to speak to your neighbour and making complaints official can make things more awkward down the line as you didn't speak to your neighbour directly.

And then what about smells? If your neighbour likes eating especially pungent food, something that offends your nostrils, and that smell drifts through your window, what can you do? Some other common issues include water leaking through the ceiling, pets making noise, and littering from the balcony above you.

And then, if you're lucky enough to own a garden, that can present even more issues to fight with your neighbour about! This could include **hedges** and **fences** that are too high, balls and toys invading your garden or hitting your windows, and **boundary** disputes over where your neighbours' land ends. All these can create **animosity** over time.

It's not easy living next door to someone, especially if they're noisy. But having a clear and honest line of **dialogue** might help. Also, try considering if the things you are doing could upset your neighbours. If it's something that would upset you, maybe think again.

詞彙表

next door	隔壁
neighbour from hell	非常糟糕的鄰居
feud	爭吵不休，長期不和
proximity	鄰近
quarrel	爭吵
condominium	公寓住房
apartment block	公寓樓
dispute	糾紛
noise pollution	噪音污染
bass	低音
argue	爭吵
harmony	和諧，和睦
living space	生活空間
building manager	物業經理
hedge	樹籬
fence	圍欄，籬笆
boundary	分界，此處指兩家之間的界線
animosity	敵意，憎惡
dialogue	對話

測驗與練習

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. Which famous piece of literature is given as example of a family feud?
2. What examples of noise pollution are given?
3. What might getting a building manager involved in a problem cause?
4. What is the problem with pungent food?
5. What issues can arise if you have a garden?

2. 選擇意思恰當的單詞或片語來完成下列句子。

1. They are really disrupting the _____ of the neighbourhood.

feud	harmony	fence	boundary
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2. This situation is getting worse and creating real _____ between us.

bass	fence	proximity	animosity
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3. Can you hear the _____ coming from that stereo? It's shaking the walls!

condominium	argue	bass	fence
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4. Can you please cut your _____? It's growing on my side of the boundary!

quarrel	hedge	dispute	animosity
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5. We have a long-standing _____ with our neighbours. Things have been bad for years.

fence	bass	feud	condominium
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答案

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. Which famous piece of literature is given as example of a family feud?

The Montagues and Capulets in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.

2. What examples of noise pollution are given?

Loud bass, construction, noise from pets or people arguing next door can disrupt the harmony of your living space.

3. What might getting a building manager involved in a problem cause?

Getting a building manager involved can make things more awkward down the line as you didn't speak to your neighbour directly.

4. What is the problem with pungent food?

The smell may drift in through your window, but you can't just ask someone to stop eating.

5. What issues can arise if you have a garden?

Hedges and fences that are too high, balls and toys invading your garden or hitting your windows and boundary disputes over where your neighbours' land ends.

2. 選擇意思恰當的單詞或片語來完成下列句子。

1. They are really disrupting the **harmony** of the neighbourhood.

2. This situation is getting worse and creating real **animosity** between us.

3. Can you hear the **bass** coming from that stereo? It's shaking the walls!

4. Can you please cut your **hedge**? It's growing on my side of the boundary!

5. We have a long-standing **feud** with our neighbours. Things have been bad for years.