



THE PHONE CALL TEACHER'S NOTES

Objectives

SUMMARY

Megan's mum has been taken to hospital and Megan rushes there to find out how she is. Her dad meets her at the entrance and explains that her mum broke her ankle because she fell down the stairs at home. Megan's dad says he will cancel a business trip so he can look after his wife, but Megan points out that she can care for her mum while her dad is away because she's got school holidays. Megan's dad is very grateful and he apologises for being moody with Megan recently. They talk about how they both feel and Megan understands that her dad has a lot of work to do and sometimes, because he's stressed, he gets angry. Both Megan and her dad feel better after they talk.

LANGUAGE

will / won't, first conditional, present perfect simple, irregular past participles, *ever / never*

USEFUL INFORMATION

Other famous families that look after each other include the Obamas, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, the Beckhams and the British Royal Family.

THINK ABOUT

If students have already watched the video, refer them back to episode 6 and ask them to recall the events. *What is Megan going to do? Why does she need to think about the activities she wants to do with her mum? What activities can they do together?*

- 1 Now refer students to the two questions. Ask students to think of practical things Megan will have to do for her mum. Prompt them with questions such as: *Who is going to do the cooking? Who is going to go to the supermarket?* Then ask students to think about Megan's mum and what she will need to have fun. *What can't Megan's mum do at the moment? How will she feel? What can Megan do to have fun with her mum?*

Ask students to think about times they have looked after someone in their family. *Do you have younger brothers, sisters or cousins? Do you look after them when their parents are busy? Do you look after your parents if they are feeling ill? Do you do anything to help your grandparents?*

- 2 First ask students to read through sentences 1–6 so that they know what they have to listen for. Then students watch the video and listen for specific vocabulary that they hear.

Answers

1 poor 2 rests 3 look after 4 OK 5 Good 6 shame

Mixed ability idea

Ask students to think of contexts when they could use the phrases, both the correct answers and their alternatives.

THINK BACK

- 3 Students work in pairs and answer the questions.

Answers

- 1 She's worried about her mum.
- 2 He feels relieved because Megan is going to look after her mum so he can go on his business trip.
- 3 He says sorry because he has shouted a lot recently.
- 4 She can't meet up with her friends.

- 4 Students choose the most logical response to each sentence.

Answers

1 c 2 a 3 b 4 a

Optional activity

Ask students to explain their choices. For example, in item 2, the correct response is arrived at by understanding the grammar whereas the other items require students to analyse a context.

THINK THROUGH

ROLE PLAY A phone call

Explain that the students are going to create a role play based around a telephone conversation between Megan and her dad while he is away on business. Megan is going to be telling him how her mum is, what they have been doing and her plans for the rest of the week.

Refer students to the instructions and suggested sentence starters. Remind them of the future tenses they have learnt in Units 10 and 11. They should use these structures when they talk about what they are going to do. Students can also use the past simple to talk about what Megan and her mum have done so far, and the present tenses to describe the current situation.

Monitor and offer support while students are preparing their role play.

Encourage as many students as possible to perform their role plays. Consider asking pairs to perform to each other. The 'audience' pair can monitor language use and make corrections if necessary. This can also be done as a full-class exercise.

Optional activity

Write an email from Megan to her dad that gives details of how Megan's mum is, what Megan and her mum are doing together and what their plans are for the rest of the week.