
AGONY AUNT

ALL YOUR PROBLEMS SOLVED

Type of modul:	Creative Communication
Level:	A2+
Target group:	14–17-year-old learners
Written by:	Csíky Anna, Prievara Tibor

A kiadvány az Educatio Kht. kompetenciafejlesztő oktatási program kerettanterve alapján készült.

A kiadvány a Nemzeti Fejlesztési Terv Humán erőforrás-fejlesztési Operatív Program 3.1.1. központi program (Pedagógusok és oktatási szakértők felkészítése a kompetencia alapú képzés és oktatás feladataira) keretében készült, a sulinoVA oktatási programcsomag részeként létrejött tanulói információhordozó. A kiadvány sikeres használatához szükséges a teljes oktatási programcsomag ismerete és használata.

A teljes programcsomag elérhető: www.educatio.hu címen.

Szakmai vezető: Kuti Zsuzsa

Szakmai bizottság: Enyedi Ágnes, dr. Majorosi Anna, dr. Morvai Edit

Szakmai lektor: Enyedi Ágnes

Idegen nyelvi lektor: Peter Doherty

Alkotó szerkesztő: Sákovics Lília

Szakértők: Fehér Judit, Tartsayné Németh Nóra

Grafikai munka: Walton Promotion Kft.

Hangfelvételek: Phoenix Stúdió

Felelős szerkesztő: Burom Márton

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Szerzők: Bede Zoltán, Csíky Anna, Fruttus Hajnalka, Prievara Tibor

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1.1 TASK SHEET

Quotes for the lead-in.

We have a problem. 'Congratulations.' But it's a tough problem. 'Then double congratulations.'
You're either part of the solution or part of the problem.

The way we see the problem is the problem.

Must we find a solution? Can't we enjoy the problem for a while?

It's a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it.

I didn't know the full facts of life until I was seventeen. My father never talked about his work.

The 'problem game'

- 1 My family hates my boyfriend.
- 2 I have just moved to a new school and I don't know how to make friends.
- 3 My best friend doesn't want to talk to me anymore.
- 4 I had an argument with my boyfriend/girlfriend and I would like to tell him/her that I'm sorry. What should I do?
- 5 My friend is really stressed nowadays. How can I help him/her?
- 6 My friend is a quiet person who finds it hard to make friends. What can she do?
- 7 My friend has just broken up with his/her boyfriend/girlfriend but they go to the same class. What can be done?
- 8 My friend started dating people online.
- 9 My best friend seems to be depressed these days. What can I do to help him/her?
- 10 My friend really likes a guy/girl. How could s/he let him/her know?

'Listen to these friends!'

■ You are going to listen to five people talking about their friends. As you listen, match each extract with one of the statements below.

- a The speaker's friend is really intelligent.
- b It's important to have something that friends can laugh about.
- c Friends should listen to each other if they have a problem and should not tell the other what he/she should do.
- d It is possible to be friends with somebody even if you meet very rarely.
- e You don't have to have the same language to become good friends with somebody.

■ Listen to the extracts again and try to fill in the blanks using ONE suitable word.

Extract 1.

There are many factors _____ (1) are important in a friendship. I think some _____ (2) of shared interest or a similar sense of humour is important.

Also, some kind of shared points of reference, so you always have something to talk _____ (3). Having some kind of thing that you can laugh about really keeps people, _____ (4) I think. My friend from Holland, for example, has a very good sense of humour, and always _____ (5) me laugh. She is really funny, so we can carry on these long dialogues about nothing _____ (6) in particular. We enjoy each others' company.

Extract 2.

For many, friendships become weaker when there is a _____ (7) distance between the two people, but I don't find this. As I've spent a lot of my time travelling over the last few years, I'm really used to not seeing my friends for a long period of time, even though I _____ (8) feel a deep connection with some of them through the time that we spent together and the experiences that we _____ (9) in common.

Extract 3.

Maria, a really close friend of mine, is Indian. She has _____ (10) to India a lot of times to re-discover her roots and she is incredibly well-read in all kinds of things _____ (11) philosophy, literature and art. You can talk with her about any subject and she will not talk in a "Miss know-it-all" type of way, but you _____ (12) the feeling that you are talking to somebody with great intelligence.

Extract 4.

I haven't heard _____ (13) by best friend recently. I do not know if she has any babies or anything, but I am sure we will be in contact soon. I hope so, because I still consider her as my best friend. I could tell her anything, she was always a very good listener, and she would suggest things, but never _____ (14) you a lecture on what you should do, just offer maybe a sympathetic ear and maybe another way of looking at things, if there were any problems. Of _____ (15), when you are in university, there are always hundreds of problems! In the future, I think she intends to carry on practising medicine, psychiatry.

Extract 5.

Friends are those that you choose to _____ (16) your time with, and that you love, and they are one of the most important things in life. It's just something that happens naturally between people that have something in common, who feel similar to each other in a _____ (17) way, or who like being close to each other, being together. Friends can, of course, be of any age, of either sex, and of any nationality. It's even possible, although difficult, to make friends with people with whom you don't have a common language.

2.2 TAPESCRIPT

'Listen to these friends' with highlighted expressions for further vocabulary enrichment.

Extract 1.

There **are many factors which are important in a friendship**. I think **some kind of shared interest** or a **similar sense of humour** is important.

Also, **some kind of shared points of reference**, so you **always have something to talk about**. Having some kind of thing that you **can laugh about** really **keeps people together**, I think. My friend from Holland, for example, **has a very good sense of humour**, and **always makes me laugh**. She is really funny, so we can **carry on these long dialogues about nothing much in particular**. **We enjoy each others' company**.

Extract 2.

For many, friendships become weaker when there is a large distance between the two people, but **I don't find this**. As **I've spent a lot of my time travelling over the last few years**, **I'm really used to not seeing my friends for a long period of time**, even though I still **feel a deep connection with some of them** through the time that we spent together and **the experiences that we have in common**.

Extract 3.

Maria, a really close friend of mine, is Indian. She has been to India a lot of times to re-discover her roots and **she is incredibly well-read in all kinds of things like** philosophy, literature and art. **You can talk with her about any subject** and she will not talk in a "Miss know-it-all" type of way, **but you get the feeling you are talking to somebody with great intelligence**. She **always used to work so hard that she never had any free time**.

Extract 4.

I haven't heard from my best friend recently. I do not know if she has any babies or anything, but **I am sure we will be in contact soon**. **I hope so**, because I **still consider her as my best friend**. I **could tell her anything**, she was **always a very good listener**, and she would **suggest things**, but **never give you a lecture, on what you should do**, just **offer maybe a sympathetic ear** and maybe **another way of looking at things**, if there were any problems. Of course, when you are in university, there are always hundreds of problems! **In the future**, I think **she intends to** carry on practising medicine, psychiatry.

Extract 5.

Friends are those that **you choose to spend your time with, and that you love**, and they are **one of the most important things in life**. **It's just something that happens naturally between people that have something in common**, who **feel similar to each other in a certain way**, or **who like being close to each other, being together**. Friends can, of course, **be of any age**, of either sex, and **of any nationality**. **It's even possible, although difficult, to make friends with people with whom you don't have a common language**.

Readings from an international agony column.

1

My parents are so strict!! I am a good student and very responsible, but my parents can't seem to give me any freedom. They have so many rules, and they hardly ever let me go out with my friends. My friends go out to a teen club every Sunday and they have never gotten into trouble or anything in relation to the club. And there is no alcohol served in the club either. What can I do to get my parents to let up. I've tried talking to them, and nothing seems to work. I just think that they don't trust my friends. What should I do?

female, Age 16

2 "Who Would Hire A 14 Yr Old?"

I want a job. I'm very responsible, fun, and trustworthy, but I am only 14 . Do you have any ideas on where would hire a 14 year old?

female, 13 yrs.

USA

3 "My Opinions are Too Forward?"

I am known to be a "bitch." Not bitchy or a little mean but a bitch! This is because I always say what's on my mind. For example, if someone asked me "How does my new shirt look on me?" and I thought it looked bad I would simply tell them "It looks like shit, get a new one." Lately a lot of people have been saying I'm hurting them, or I make them feel bad about themselves. Do you think I am really that bad? What could I do to not hurt other but still speak my mind?

female, 14 yrs

USA

4 "Lied to the Net Guy?"

I met this guy online a few months ago. We became pretty good friends and we talked a lot. But, because of all the things I hear about stalking and how Net relationships can never work, I lied constantly to him. Mostly I did it for my own safety, I didn't want anyone getting ahold of me or whatever. Recently though, I sent him a picture of myself and he sent me a picture of himself. We have started talking more and more, up to four hours a day. We talk about everything. We were almost like best friends. Now though, my feelings are changing for him and his are changing for me. We are becoming more than just friends. And I don't know why, but this time, with this guy, it feels different. I really love him, and I know I do. It isn't just a crush, it really is love. There are two problems though. First of all, he lives forever away and second, I've lied so much just to protect myself. I wrote him a letter and told him the truth about everything. Did I do the right thing and is there still a chance that the two of us can make it as a couple?

female, 14 yrs

USA

5 "What to say on the Phone?"

Well I have this guy friend. We are really close and talk on the phone alot but I seem to run out of things to say really fast and then he gets bored talking to me and doesn't want to talk to me as much if at all anymore. This has happened before and I don't want it to happen again, what can I do? I don't want him to think that I'm a boring person because for the most part I'm not but I just don't know what to say on the phone. Thanks!!

female 14 yrs.

USA

6 "I am a Perfectionist?"

I am a very depressed individual. The most pressing issue is that I have no one I trust to talk to. I feel that I have no good friends that I'm comfortable revealing my feelings to. I used to have a few good friends, but somehow I managed to stop talking to all of them. I'm not saying I have no friends, cuz I do. Very, very few, but I have them nonetheless. However I can't comfortably talk to them about anything that's not totally trivial. Even those people are unfortunately becoming less and less in number, though. That's the first reason I'm depressed.

Here's reason number two: I'm a perfectionist. I have to be the best at something or do it in a completely different way from anyone else or there's no point in doing it. For example, this year is the first year that I haven't played basketball in as long as I can remember. Why not? Because I feel that I'm not good enough at it. Unquestionably I would've made the team if I tried out and probably even gotten a lot of playing time, but I would've gotten angry with myself after every game and practice because I wouldn't live up to my standards.

female, 16 yrs

7 "Hanging out or a Date?"

I have a Boyfriend who is 12 yrs. He asked me out. We are now an official couple but I do not know if we have ever gone on our first date yet. I have gone to his house a couple of times and he has come to mine too. But during our relationship we broke up. We were still good friends and so one day he and I and his mom went to lunch then we went to the movies. Me and him sat alone, apart from his mother (please keep in mind that we were broken up and just friends). You could not call this our first date because we were broken up. A week later he asked me back out and I said yes. He came over to my house a few more times and i wnet to his a few times (please keep in mind that when he came to my house my parents were home and when I went to his house his parents were home). When I asked my friends if these were dates they said no and that it was just hanging out with my boy friend. Is this is hanging out or going on dates? I would like to know your opinion.

female, 12 yrs

USA

8 "How to Make Friends?"

I have no friends. I dont have anybody to hang out with in school. I always go out by my self. I am a total loner, my whole life!! Sometimes I think I lost the lessons in how to make friends. I have no brothers or familiars of my age. I am not a shy person, & I'm not a open person. I am nice & respectful to everyone. I dont know what to do. this is going to end up killing me. My life is a sad song & lonely is the title. Please help!!

male, 16 yrs

9 "Best Friend Lied?"

I have this problem with my best friend whom I've been very close to for 3 and a half years now. I asked her if that was her holding my ex's hand after school the night we have a Key Club meeting and she said that she was hanging out with friends. A friend saw her again holding his hand. I won't be mad if she is going with him, it is just the fact that she lied to me. So should I go and ask her again if she was holding his hand and also going with him if so. Because I am totally upset right about now.

female, age 16

USA

10 "First Time Face to Face?"

Ok. First, you have a guy. Second, you have a girl. By some twist of Fate, these two start to communicate with one another... then they decide they might want to meet face to face. How should each of the two friends (who could easily be more) act toward the other on the first meeting... and what kind of place should they meet?

female, Age 16

11 "Confront Him About His Smoking?"

I'm currently in a great relationship, but a minor just cropped up recently, and I'm really in a dilemma now. I love my boyfriend very much and I know he loves me too. He has proven it with his words and actions, I don't doubt his love for me. He was a rather heavy smoker, but he quit when I kept bugging him about it, or so I thought. Just yesterday when going out with him, I found a packet of cigarettes in his bag (by accident), well, but I just kept quiet about it. Before this, I already have some suspicions that he has not totally quit as he told me, cigarette smell stays on the smoker's hand, mouth and clothing and it's really distinctive. At times when we go out, after I came out from the toilet, he just like disappeared for a few mins, I suspected that he went for a quick puff. All those are just suspicions till I saw that cigarettes in his bag.

I'm really in a dilemma of how to continue from here. Do I confront him or just keep quiet and see how things goes?

age - 19 yrs

Singapore

12 "Dumping me?"

Me and my girlfriend have been going out for nearly 3 months. We both go to different schools so we only get an opportunity to talk to each other over the phone. We usually go out on Saturday. Well, this past week I had my concerns. Whenever I called her, she would always have to go real quick because of homework. And then she would tell me, "I'll call you tomorrow" and then never call. I'd call her the next day and she'd say she was sorry and only talk for five minutes. This is strange cause she would always talk to me for about half an hour. Do you think she wants to break it off?

Male, Age 16

5.2 SELF-ASSESSMENT FORM

- Think about the last five lessons and the reviews and shows you have made. Finish the sentences so that they are true about YOU.

1 In this project, I learnt...

2 I still need to work on...

3 I liked...

4 I didn't like...
