

Dealing with a Dispute Between Neighbors Over Noise

CEFR C1 Roleplay



1. Warm-up Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever experienced issues with noise from neighbors? How did you handle it?
2. What do you think are acceptable noise levels in shared living spaces?
3. What would you consider to be “reasonable hours” for making noise, such as playing music or doing home repairs?
4. How would you feel if a neighbor approached you with a noise complaint?
5. Why is it important to try to resolve noise disputes in a calm and respectful way?
6. What are some solutions you could suggest to a neighbor to help reduce noise disturbances?

2. Example Conversation: Dealing with a Dispute Between Neighbors Over Noise

Student A (Neighbor 1):

"Hi, thanks for agreeing to talk. I wanted to discuss the noise levels, especially in the evenings. It's been a bit challenging for me to get a good night's sleep."

Student B (Neighbor 2):

"I'm really sorry to hear that. I didn't realize it was that disruptive. When does it usually bother you the most?"

Student A:

"It's mainly after 10 p.m. I think the music, in particular, is quite loud at times. Would it be possible to lower the volume?"

Student B:

"Of course. I didn't mean to disturb you. I'll keep it down after 10. Is there anything else that's been bothering you?"

Student A:

"Thank you, I appreciate that. There's also the issue with some weekend gatherings. I totally understand wanting to have friends over, but it sometimes goes quite late."

Student B:

"That's fair feedback. I can try to keep gatherings quieter and perhaps end them a bit earlier. Would that help?"

Student A:

"Yes, that would make a big difference. I'm glad we're able to talk this through."

Student B:

"Me too. The last thing I'd want is for you to feel uncomfortable in your own home. Please feel free to let me know if anything else is ever an issue."

Student A:

"I will, and thank you for being so understanding. Let's keep each other updated if anything comes up."

Student B:

"Absolutely. I'll start being more mindful of the volume and the timing of gatherings. Thanks for bringing it up in such a calm way."

Student A:

"No problem. I know these things can happen, and I appreciate you taking it seriously. I look forward to a bit more peace in the evenings!"

Student B:

"Consider it done. Here's to being good neighbors!"

3. Background:

You and your neighbor have been having issues with noise disturbances, particularly in the evenings and on weekends. You have agreed to meet and discuss the situation calmly to find a mutually acceptable solution. The goal is to establish clearer expectations for noise levels and timing, ensuring that both parties feel respected in their shared living environment.

4. Instructions:

Student A (Neighbor 1):

You are concerned about the noise levels coming from your neighbor's apartment, especially during late hours and on weekends. Express your concerns calmly and suggest specific adjustments, such as lowering the volume after a certain time or limiting late gatherings. Your goal is to resolve the situation without escalating it.

Student B (Neighbor 2):

Your neighbor has approached you with concerns about noise from your apartment. Listen to their feedback, acknowledge their concerns, and offer practical solutions, such as turning down the volume after a certain time or keeping gatherings quieter. Your goal is to show understanding and find a compromise that works for both of you.

5. Vocabulary List:

disturbance, volume, feedback, compromise, mindful, disruptive, gathering, reasonable hours, respect, resolve