



# Skills for Problem Solving

## Upper Intermediate – Respect Rules & Boundaries

A. Katy went to a restaurant with some friends. They got bored waiting for their food, so, to pass the time, they sang some songs pretty loudly.

Katy was chewing some gum and, when the food arrived, she took the gum out of her mouth and put it on the table for later.

They were all really hungry, so they grabbed the food and started eating straight away. They were chewing with their mouths open, and laughing loudly, spraying food all over the table. The family sitting at the next table got so annoyed, they asked to be moved.

**How was the behaviour of Katy and her friends unacceptable?**

B. Olly was travelling to the airport on the underground with a big group of friends. It was rush hour, so it was pretty crowded and they were standing in front of the train doors. Some of the other passengers had trouble getting in and out of the doors.

Olly was listening to music on his headphones while talking to his friends, so he had to talk quite loudly. Luckily for him he was able to get a seat... he beat an elderly man for the last one. The people around Olly and his friends were looking annoyed.

**What did Olly and his friends do to annoy the people around them?**

C. Ryan visited an art gallery on a school trip. He and his friends were bored. Ryan looked around and noticed some other visitors that were wearing funny clothes. He whispered to his friend and pointed to the people and then Ryan and his friend laughed a lot.

They ran along the corridor and went into a room to watch a video about a famous artist. During the video Ryan's phone rang, so he answered it and had a loud conversation.

In the gift shop, Ryan paid for his souvenirs with all the small coins that he had. It took five minutes for the cashier to count the money and everyone else had to wait.

The next day, Ryan's teacher told the class that some of the other visitors to the gallery had complained to the school.

**What did Ryan and his friends do that was unacceptable?**

### Reflection Point

There are situations in which we have to respect social boundaries that aren't always covered by official rules or regulations. Respecting social boundaries helps us to live and work together. The way we behave in these situations has a direct influence on other people, especially our friends.



## Upper Intermediate – Respect Rules & Boundaries

**Aim:** To help students understand that it's important to respect social rules and boundaries and to become aware of how their behaviour can affect other people.

**Lead-in:** Write the following on the board in two columns:

*considerate behaviour*

*antisocial behaviour*

Elicit from students what each phrase means and check everyone understands (*considerate*: thinking about the feelings and needs of other people; *antisocial*: showing a lack of care for other people or for society in general). Ask students to work in pairs and discuss what kind of behaviour would be considered considerate and antisocial in the following public places and situations:

- at the cinema
- in a queue
- on a train
- in a shopping mall
- on a street
- at an airport
- in a museum

Ask students to think of other examples of public social situations in which there are no official rules and regulations, but where it's important to behave in an appropriate way.

**Choose A Scenario:** Ask students to work in pairs and choose one of the three scenarios (A–C). Explain to students that they should identify the behaviour in the scenario that is acceptable and not acceptable in a public social situation. Write on the board:

- *Did the people in the scenario behave in a considerate or antisocial way?*
- *What things did they do could be inconsiderate or rude?*

Ask students to answer the questions on the board, and the question at the end of their scenario. Ask students to discuss ideas for how the people in their scenario should behave next time they are in a similar situation. What kind of things should they do to be considerate of other people's feelings and needs and to respect social boundaries? Encourage students to look at the Reflection Point while they are working.

**Reflection Point:** Explain to students that, in order for society to function, people have to behave in an appropriate way in public social situations. Although there are no official rules about behaviour, it is expected that everyone will respect written and "unwritten" rules about what is acceptable or not in a given situation.

When people in a group break these rules, it can lead others in the group to behave in the same way. We should try to set an example to our friends and be considerate to others when we are out in public.

**Class discussion:** Ask each pair to work with another pair who chose the same scenario. Ask students to compare the behaviour they identified in their scenario. Did they have the same examples as the other pair?

Ask students to compare their ideas for how the person in the scenario could improve their behaviour. Did they have the same ideas? Ask students if they have ever been in a situation similar to that described in their scenario? How did they feel? What happened?

Ask students how they would personally feel if one of their friends is behaving in an antisocial or inconsiderate way when they are with them in a public place. Ask students the following questions:

- *How difficult is it for you to say something to a friend who is behaving in an antisocial way?*
- *Why do some young people behave in an inconsiderate or antisocial way?*
- *Why is it important that everyone respects social rules and boundaries?*



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**Work alone:** Ask students to work alone and choose a second scenario from A–C and follow the same steps as in section 2.

Once they have finished, invite volunteers to present their ideas about their scenario to the class.

**Extension:** Encourage students to think of the consequences that antisocial behaviour can have. Present the following scenarios and elicit what might happen:

- One of your friends drops litter in the street.
- A friend is lying across two seats on the bus.
- Some friends are playing football next to a family with small children who are having a picnic on the grass.
- Two friends are shouting outside the school library.
- At a party, people are playing loud music at 11.30pm.

Ask students what they would say to their friend or what they would do in the situations above. Ask if any of these things are against the law in the students' country.