

# Talk a Lot

## Problems – Which day will be the toughest?

### Student A

Angelica Lemming is a professional counsellor, who assists clients with their life problems. Below there is an extract from her private diary, listing some of her appointments for next week. Ask and answer questions to complete the gaps, and find out information about each client and appointment. Which day do you think will be the most demanding for her? Why?

	Monday	Tuesday
9:35	Carrie - eating disorder (mention special offer - buy 4 hours get 1 free!)	
11:45		Free (although Lewis will probably over-run again - leave slot available)
14:25		Alan and Charity - messy divorce + negative equity (ouch!)
15:40	Brian - dead budgie (bereavement counselling?)	
TO DO	Call Roger about plumbing (stench)	
EVENING		Rehearsal - choir (remember to pick up Jeff & Jules!)

	Wednesday	Thursday
10:55		Jimmy - ex-con (can't get a job - criminal record = lack of confidence / self-esteem / relapse)
11:50	Alma - can't find a date; desperate for love (don't mention speed dating again!)	
12:30		
15:10	Cliff - attempted suicide (teasing + bullying)	
TO DO		Remember - call Frank re cruise; last chance (fjords)
EVENING	Piano recital - Town Hall, 8 - Marvin (driving)	Long bath (pedicure?) - 9pm Bach on Radio 3 :o)

### Student B

Angelica Lemming is a professional counsellor, who assists clients with their life problems. Below there is an extract from her private diary, listing some of her appointments for next week. Ask and answer questions to complete the gaps, and find out information about each client and appointment. Which day do you think will be the most demanding for her? Why?

	Monday	Tuesday
9:35		Lewis and parents - talk about general problems from childhood (esp. parental neglect)
11:45	Colin - depressed (unemployed - two years)	
14:25	Marion (sibling rivalry - sister is high-flier)	
15:40		Mandy and partner (Gavin? Kevin?) - benefits trap
TO DO		Johnny will return gerbils (maybe after 4pm)
EVENING	Party at Brenda's (take pie - not blueberry)	

	Wednesday	Thursday
10:55	Rosemary - trouble finding childcare + info about benefits and allowances	
11:50		Serena Robinson + mother - acne getting worse (could be some sobbing - ensure enough tissues to hand)
12:30	Paul - always bunking off school (lock door?)	Mr. Griffiths - pension / debt (remind re payment)
15:10		Martin - gambling addiction (big debts)
TO DO	Mop the floor (borrow mop - Karl)	
EVENING		

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## Problems

### Information Exchange

#### Answers

#### Problems – Which day will be the toughest?

Task: "Angelica Lemming is a professional counsellor, who assists clients with their life problems. Below there is an extract from her private diary, listing some of her appointments for next week. Ask and answer questions to complete the gaps, and find out information about each client and appointment. Which day do you think will be the most demanding for her? Why?"

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TO DO	Call Roger about plumbing (stench)	Johnny will return gerbils (maybe after 4pm)
EVENING	Party at Brenda's (take pie - not blueberry)	Rehearsal - choir (remember to pick up Jeff & Jules!)

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TO DO	Mop the floor (borrow mop - Karl)	Remember - call Frank re cruise; last chance (f.jords)
EVENING	Piano recital - Town Hall, 8 - Marvin (driving)	Long bath (pedicure?) - 9pm Bach on Radio 3 :o)

"Which day do you think will be the most demanding for her? Why?" When they have completed filling the gaps, students should discuss which day they think will be the toughest, or most demanding, for Angelica, and why. Answers will be subjective and therefore vary from student to student. Students should produce appropriate reasons for their choices – why they would choose one day rather than another. For example: "I think Thursday will be the toughest day for Angelica next week, because she'll have appointments with clients about some serious issues, from lack of confidence to debt and gambling addiction..." Or... "I think Wednesday will be worse than Monday, because on Wednesday she's got the sessions about truancy and suicide, while the worst problem on Monday is Colin's..." [etc.]

#### Sample Questions

What's happening at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_?  
 Which client will Angelica meet on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_?  
 Tell me about Angelica's appointment at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Who is coming in on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, and what do they want to talk about?  
 What is planned for \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_?  
 What's on Angelica's TO DO list for \_\_\_\_\_?  
 What does Angelica have to do on \_\_\_\_\_?  
 What's Angelica planning to do in the evening on \_\_\_\_\_?  
 What has Angelica got planned for \_\_\_\_\_ evening?

#### Sample Answers

\_\_\_\_\_ is coming in to talk about \_\_\_\_\_.  
 She's meeting \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about \_\_\_\_\_.  
 She's seeing \_\_\_\_\_, who's got a problem with \_\_\_\_\_.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ is coming in on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about \_\_\_\_\_.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ is booked in to discuss \_\_\_\_\_.  
 She has to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 She's planning to \_\_\_\_\_ / She's going to \_\_\_\_\_ / She's hoping to \_\_\_\_\_ [etc.]

#### Examples

What's happening at two twenty-five on Monday?

Marion is coming in to talk about sibling rivalry with her sister, who is a high-flyer.

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### Information Exchange

Who is coming in on Tuesday at twenty to four, and what do they want to talk about?

What does Angelica have to do on Wednesday?

What has Angelica got planned for Thursday evening?

[etc.]

Mandy is coming in on Tuesday at twenty to four, with her partner, either Gavin or Kevin, to talk about being caught in the benefits trap.

She has to mop the floor, but first she'll need to borrow a mop from Karl.

She's going to enjoy a long bath, and maybe have a pedicure, while listening to Bach on Radio 3 from 9pm.

#### Extension 1:

You could try to encourage some comparative/superlative questions and answers, for example:

Which client has the most serious problem? Why?  
Which evening will be the most... fun? / boring? Why?  
Which client will be the hardest to handle? Why?

Martin has the most serious problem, because...  
Monday evening will be the most fun, because...  
I think that \_\_\_\_\_ will be the hardest to handle, because...

[etc.]

#### Extension 2:

Talk about Angelica. Use the information in the diary entries to speculate about: a) her appearance, b) her family life, c) her relationships, d) her likes and dislikes, e) any other part of her life. For example: how old is she? Is she married? Is she attractive? Is she clever? Is she rich? Does she like scuba-diving? Why? / Why not? etc. Imagine how her diary might look for the rest of the week, including the weekend. Create a role play in which she discusses her schedule with a friend, colleague, or relative.

#### Extension 3:

You could encourage students to develop short role plays or dialogues using the clients and appointments. For example, each small group of students could choose one day's appointments to portray, with one student playing Angelica and the other students playing the clients. They could try playing the role plays in different genres to see what happens, e.g. comedy, serious drama, melodrama, etc.

#### Extension 4:

Students work in pairs. One student plays Angelica, and the other chooses a client. The client tells their problem, and Angelica has to guess which client it is, then give advice. You could then create a follow-up scene, which takes place one week (or month, or ten years) later where we find out what happened to the client. Did they take Angelica's advice? Was it successful? If the advice didn't work out, perhaps the client now has a score to settle with Angelica! Encourage students to use a variety of different past, present, and future verb forms.