

WHY DO WE GOSSIP?



AGREE OR DISAGREE

Gossiping is a harmful habit.

Gossiping is neither good nor bad; its impact depends on the intent and content of the communication.

Gossip serves as a form of social bonding and helps strengthen connections within a community.

Gossip has become more common in the digital age, with all the social media platforms.

Gossip, even if seemingly harmless, can help stereotypes and biases continue in society.

Gossip allows people to express themselves more indirectly, sharing thoughts and opinions without confronting others directly.





LET'S BRAINSTORM



WHY DO WE GOSSIP?



1. Watch the video and answer the questions.

Which point of view do you relate to the most? Why? Do any of these stories sound like something that you have experienced?

2. Watch the video again and decide if the statements are true or false.

1. Gossiping is often a result of focusing on outer factors rather than inner ones. _____
2. The ego enjoys creating and focusing on drama to avoid personal pain. _____
3. Talking about others' damage and brokenness makes people feel worse about themselves. _____
4. Gossiping helps us reflect on our own flaws. _____
5. Talking to someone is more useful than talking about someone. _____



USEFUL VOCABULARY



Read the sentences and match the underlined words with their meanings.

1. Gossiping can lead to brokenness in relationships if not controlled. _____

2. She felt a sense of satisfaction after telling the latest gossip. _____

3. Gossiping is an inbuilt habit that some people struggle to control. _____

4. Gossiping can be harmful and lead to misunderstandings between friends. _____

5. Everyone has flaws, no one is perfect. _____

6. The gossip came to a crashing halt when she walked into the room. _____

7. Let's revive our friendship by putting an end to hurtful gossip. _____

8. I particularly enjoy hearing juicy gossip about celebrities. _____

a) to come or bring something back to life, health, existence, or use.

b) an original part of something or someone and cannot be separated from it.

c) a condition in which something is badly damaged and unable to work.

d) especially, or more than usual.

e) a pleasant feeling that you get when you receive or do something you wanted.

f) something that has a bad effect on something else.

g) a complete and sudden end.

h) a fault, mistake, or weakness.



VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Read the dialogue between two colleagues and fill in the gaps with the given words. Then, discuss whose point of view resonates more with you and why.

Tom: Hey, have you heard about the latest gossip at work?

Sarah: Gossiping again? You know, it often leads to 1) _____ among colleagues.

Tom: Oh, come on! It's just harmless chit-chat. I find 2) _____ in knowing what's going on around the office.

Sarah: But don't you think it can be 3) _____? Rumours can create misunderstandings and lead to broken relationships.

Tom: Well, I don't see it that way. Everybody has 4) _____, and gossiping is just a way to share some news.

Sarah: True, but focusing on people's flaws doesn't contribute to a positive work environment. It can bring things to a 5) _____ in terms of trust and cooperation.

Tom: You're making it sound really serious. I just thought it's part of our 6) _____ nature to talk about others.

Sarah: It is, but we should be mindful. Instead of focusing on harmful gossip, let's find ways to 7) _____ a more positive atmosphere. Maybe we could discuss achievements or highlight good things happening around us.

Tom: I guess you have a point. So, what 8) _____ would you suggest to make our workplace conversations more positive?

Sarah: We could start by acknowledging each other's accomplishments or finding common interests. That way, we can build connections without resorting to harmful gossip.

Tom: Fair enough. Let's give it a try and see if we can contribute to a more positive work environment.

a) brokenness___

e) crashing halt___

b) revive___

f) satisfaction___

c) flaws___

g) particularly___

d) inbuilt___

h) harmful___



LET'S DISCUSS



Why do you think people gossip?

Do you think gossiping is a natural human behaviour?

Have you ever been the subject of gossip? How did it make you feel?

How can we prevent gossiping and focus on more positive interactions?

A GOSSIP OR NOT?

Work in pairs, read the sentences and decide if it is gossip (negative gossip) or simply sharing information.

Explain your answers.

1. So, have you heard about the new neighbours moving in next door? I heard they're from California.

2. I haven't seen Rachel in a while. Have you heard anything about her lately? _____

3. Did you hear about Lisa's new boyfriend? He's so weird. It makes me feel better about my partner. _____

4. I can't believe she got that promotion. She doesn't even deserve it. I should have been the one to get it. _____

5. Let's not talk about work today. Have you heard about Emma Watson's latest project? _____

6. Did you hear our neighbour's quitting his job after winning the lottery? _____

7. I heard that Mike has been slacking off at work. Maybe we should talk to him about it. _____

8. Did you hear that Sarah adopted a puppy from the animal shelter? _____

9. Have you heard about the new restaurant that opened downtown? I heard their food is amazing! _____

10. I heard that Alex and Megan are planning a surprise birthday party for their friend. _____

11. Did you hear about the rumour that Lisa and Tom are getting engaged? _____

12. Have you heard that Jessica is starting her own business? I don't think she can do anything well. _____



LET'S PRACTISE

Look at the phrases used to start and stop gossip, and try to memorise them.

Start the gossip:

1. Have you heard the latest (scoop/news/rumour)?

2. Guess what I've just found out...

3. Okay, you won't believe what I'm about to tell you...

4. I've got some juicy news...

5. Psst, have you heard the gossip about...

6. I can't keep this to myself any longer...

7. So, I've been dying to spill the beans...

8. Hold onto your seat, because this is wild...

Stop the gossip:

1. Let's change the subject, shall we?

2. I'm not comfortable discussing this anymore.

3. I think it's best if we don't spread rumours.

4. I don't want to contribute to gossiping.

5. Can we focus on something more positive?

6. I'd rather not participate in gossip.

7. Let's respect people's privacy and not delve into this further.

8. I don't think it's fair to talk about others behind their backs.



WHAT'S MISSING?

Work individually and try to fill in all the gaps. After that, work in pairs and compare your answers.

Start the gossip:

1. Have you _____ the latest (scoop/news/rumour)?

2. _____ what I've just found out...

3. Okay, you won't believe what I'm _____ to tell you...

4. I've got some _____ news...

5. Psst, have you heard the _____ about...

6. I can't _____ this to myself any longer...

7. So, I've been dying to _____ the beans...

8. Hold _____ your seat, because this is wild...

Stop the gossip:

1. Let's _____ the subject, shall we?

2. I'm not _____ discussing this anymore.

3. I think it's best if we don't _____ rumours.

4. I don't want to _____ to gossiping.

5. Can we _____ on something more positive?

6. I'd _____ not participate in gossip.

7. Let's respect people's _____ and not delve into this further.

8. I don't think it's fair to talk about others behind their _____.



ROLE PLAY

Work in pairs. Decide who is student A and who is student B. Follow the instructions written on your card. Use the words and phrases from the lesson.

1. Have you heard the latest (scoop/news/rumour)?
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1. brokenness
2. satisfaction
3. inbuilt
4. harmful
5. flaws
6. crashing halt
7. revive
8. particularly



ROLE PLAY

Student A

Work in pairs. Decide who is student A and who is student B. Follow the instructions written on your card. Use the words and phrases from the lesson.

You haven't seen your friend for a while and accidentally meet them in the street. You have got juicy gossip about your mutual friends (Jo and Sally broke up/Mike lost a wedding ring/Liza was fired/the Smiths are selling their modern apartment and moving to the village with a farm/your ideas). Try to get your friend involved in this discussion, and share as many details as possible. You believe that this is really exciting news and you can't just keep it to yourself.



ROLE PLAY

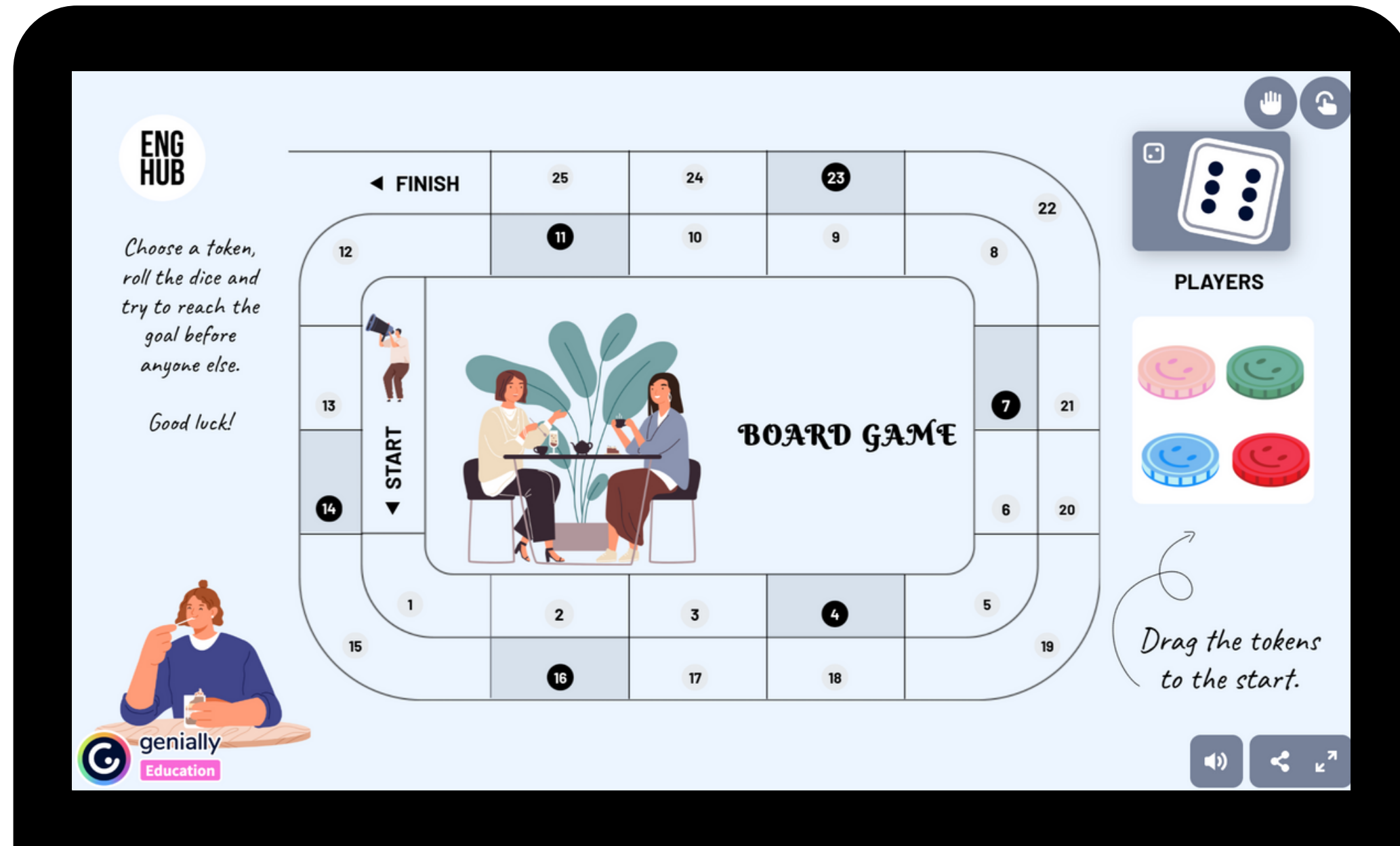
Student B

Work in pairs. Decide who is student A and who is student B. Follow the instructions written on your card. Use the words and phrases from the lesson.

You haven't seen your friend for a while and accidentally meet them in the street. Your friend seems eager to share some juicy gossip about mutual friends or acquaintances. However, you prefer to avoid gossip and maintain positive conversations. Politely steer the conversation away from gossip without offending your friend.



LET'S PLAY



Play the board game. Practice using new vocabulary and talking about different festivals.

Play in teams or individually.

Have fun!



PLAY NOW





EXTRA TASK

Choose one of the tasks below.

1. Write a social media post gossiping about a fictional character's brokenness and how they overcome it using the words "brokenness" and "revive".

2. Create a blog post discussing the harmful effects of spreading gossip and how it can lead to flaws in relationships, using the words "harmful" and "flaws".

3. Write an email to a friend describing a recent gossip you heard that came to a crashing halt, using the words "crashing halt" and "particularly".



QUIZLET



Quizlet



Revise the words for the next lesson. Use this Quizlet set. You can also play different games to practice or even test yourself in the Quizlet app or on the site.

**THANK
YOU!**

