

Starting Something New 1

Enough is enough!



Warm up:

- Have you ever had a job that you didn't like? Why didn't you like it?
- Are you someone who gets annoyed easily? Do you know anyone who is?
- Have you ever had someone be rude to you at work or at school? How did you respond?
- What is a job that you think you would hate, and why?



1. Jason receives this email from his boss. Read the email and answer the questions.

Where is the report??!

Hi Jason, were you asleep in the meeting yesterday? I told you that I need your report as soon as possible, and now it's 24 hours later and I still don't have it. Obviously, this is not good enough. I don't care if you have to stay at work until midnight (but I'm *not* paying for overtime), you need to finish it and get it to me TODAY!

On top of that, could you come by and have a look at my computer? I'm having issues connecting to the printer, and Janet said you were good with computers. You can come to my office in your lunch break and see if you can fix it.

Oh, and one more thing, I know I said I would look at your request for a holiday by today, but unfortunately, I'm a bit busy at the moment, I'll let you know about that by next week.

Kind regards, Darius Brooks

Director of Organizational Excellence

- Why is Darius angry? *He wanted the report today, and Jason has not finished it.*
- What does Darius need help with, and why does he want Jason to help him? *The printer, because Janet said he is good with computers.*
- Why hasn't Darius looked at Jason's request for a holiday yet? *He's too busy.*
- Would you be upset if you got this email? What specifically is rude about this email?



2. Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

irritating/annoying

rude

sucks

mad

upset

can't stand

yell

drives me crazy/nuts

- a) It *drives me crazy* when websites have a million pop-ups and windows before you can even see the content.
- b) You really shouldn't *yell* at your colleagues for making a mistake, it doesn't help them to learn.
- c) In some countries it is really *rude* to talk loudly on public transport.
- d) You lost your job? I'm so sorry, that *sucks* .
- e) Please don't get *mad/upset*, but I accidentally killed your flowers.
- f) I *can't stand* it when people who aren't my boss try to tell me how to do my job!
- g) I like my job but having useless online meetings every week is so *irritating/annoying*, I just want to do my work!




3. With a partner rate how annoying the situations are on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 is the most annoying). Try to use the phrases from the exercise above.

For example: *"I get really upset/mad when people do that."*

- a) People who eat with their mouth open.
- b) You are talking to someone, and they interrupt you multiple times when you are trying to make an important point.
- c) You have bought tickets to a concert for you and a friend, and the day before your friend tells you they can't come because they are busy.
- d) Right before an important online meeting your computer restarts for an automatic update which will take 15 minutes.
- e) In a room full of your colleagues, your boss yells at you for making a mistake, even though it was actually his mistake.
- f) You are exiting a train, and someone pushes onto the train before you can get off.
- g) You are working on a group project, and one person is not doing their part of the project and keeps making excuses for why they haven't done it.
- h) Someone sleeping next to you or near you is snoring very loudly.



 **4. Write 5 sentences describing how you feel about some of the examples from the exercise above using the phrases from exercise 2.**

For example: *"It drives me nuts when people snore."*

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

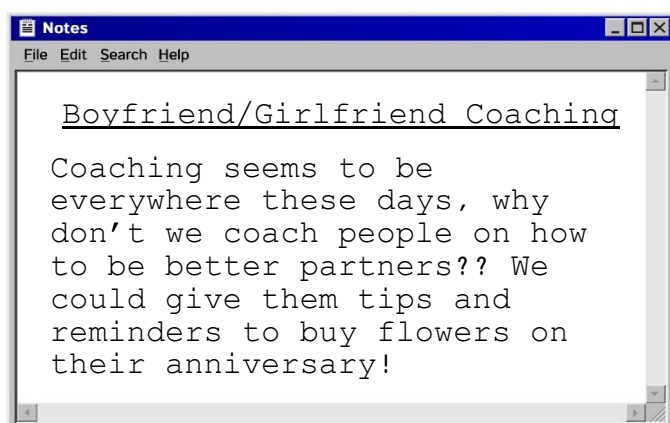
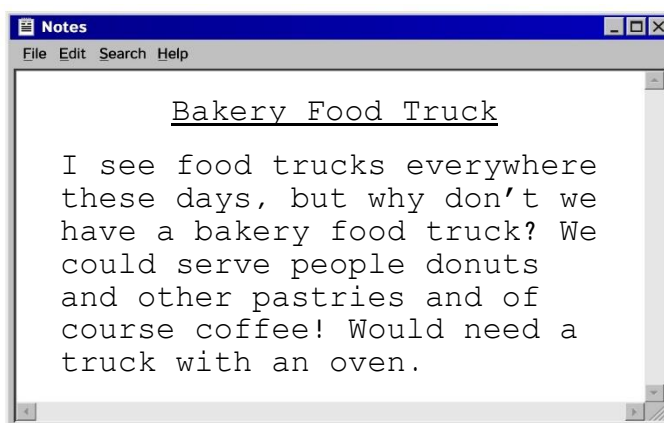
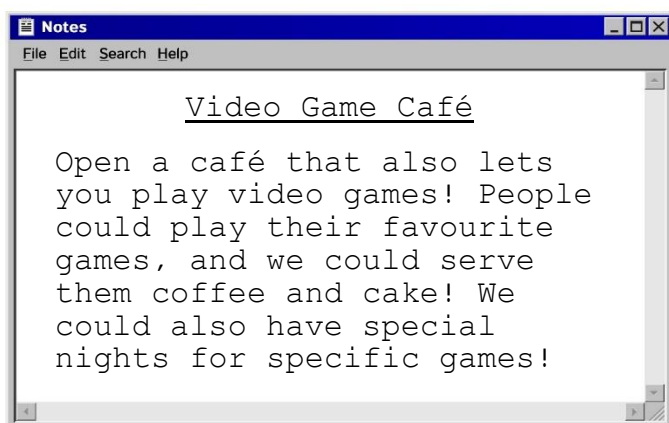
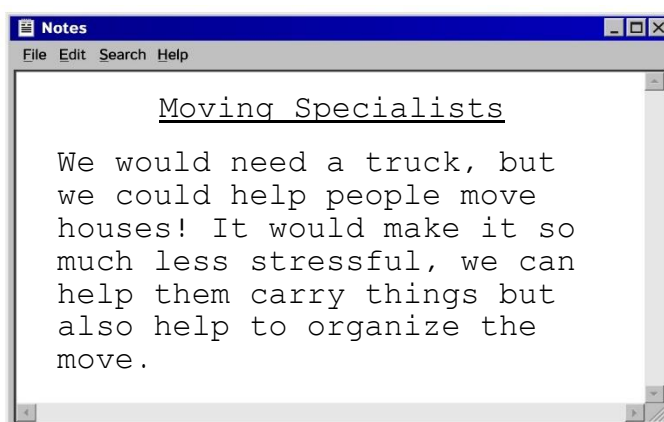
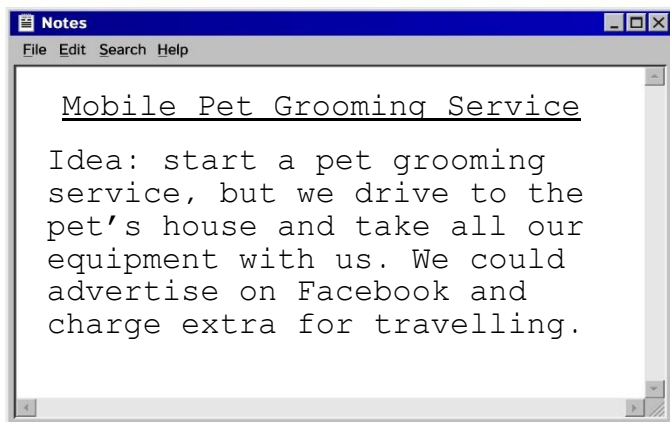
 **5. Listen to the conversation between Jason and Tessa about the email from exercise 1 and answer the questions.**

- a) Why was Jason's report late? *Because his boss forgot to tell him about it.*
- b) What happened the last time Jason told his boss that he made a mistake? *His boss yelled at him in front of the whole office and made him work on the weekend.*
- c) Why does Jason think his boss hates him? *Because he's nice to everyone else but gets irritated at everything Jason does.*
- d) What are two reasons Jason doesn't like his job? *His boss and he spends all day looking at a computer reading boring documents.*
- e) What is Tessa's job? *She's a waitress*
- f) What are two reasons Tessa doesn't like her job? *The customers are rude to her, and her boss hired her son to be the head chef, and he makes a lot of mistakes.*
- g) What are three reasons Tessa gives for why they should start a business together? *They both hate their jobs, they both have enough money to start a business, and they work well together.*



 **6. Look at Tessa's business ideas and say what you think you would like about running these businesses, and what would irritate you.**

For example: *"I think I would enjoy working with animals, but driving all over the city would drive me crazy."*



 **7. Now compare your sentences with a partner and have a discussion about running these businesses.**

Audio Transcript

Tessa: Are you ok Jason? You look... you look pretty upset.

Jason: Yeah I'm ok... no actually I'm really not. I can't remember the last time I've been this mad.

Tessa: Let me guess, it's your boss again?

Jason: Yep, it is. He's driving me absolutely crazy.

Tessa: What is it this time?

Jason: It's this stupid report he wants me to finish. He sent me an email basically yelling at me because it's late. It was due in yesterday.

Tessa: Yesterday? I mean, ok he shouldn't yell at you, but that is late.

Jason: Of course it is, but the whole reason it's late is because he forgot to tell me that he needed it. He told me about it on Monday, and normally I would need a week to finish a report like that, and I had to finish it in a day! It was late because of him!

Tessa: Can't you just tell him that it's late because he forgot to tell you about it?

Jason: That's not a good idea. The last time I told him that he made a mistake he got mad and yelled at me in front of the whole office and then made me work on the weekend!

Tessa: Seriously? That's so rude, he sounds like a terrible boss.

Jason: He's the worst, and I think he hates me. He gets irritated at everything I do, but is really nice to everyone else in the office.

Tessa: That sounds horrible Jason, I'm sorry. Could you look for a new job?

Jason: That's the problem, it's not just my boss. I spend all day looking at a computer, reading the most boring documents you could imagine, and any other job I could get in the same area would just be more of that.

Tessa: Well if it makes you feel any better, my job sucks too.

Jason: Ha. That doesn't make me feel better, but thanks for trying. What's wrong with your job? I thought you loved your job?

Tessa: I did, but the longer I do it the more the customers drive me crazy. It seems like every day a customer is rude to me, and I just can't stand it anymore. Yesterday I had a customer yell at me because I gave him a sandwich with tomatoes in it, and he was allergic to tomatoes.

Jason: I mean... that is pretty bad. Did he tell you he was allergic?

Tessa: He did, and I told the chef, I was very careful to say 'no tomatoes', but the chef forgot and put tomatoes on the sandwich. To be honest, I don't even blame the customer for getting mad, but it wasn't my fault, and I still got yelled at by both the customer and my boss.

Jason: Your boss wasn't angry at the chef?

Tessa: Nope.

Jason: Why not if it was his fault?

Tessa: The chef is his son.

Jason: Ahhh I see. That's a tricky situation.

Tessa: It is, that's another reason why my job is so annoying, my boss hired her own son to be the head chef of the restaurant, and he makes mistakes all the time, and somehow he never gets in trouble!

Jason: I'm sorry, that would drive me nuts. What are we going to do? We both hate our jobs.

Tessa: Well you know, I've been thinking... we could start a business.

Jason: A business? What do you mean?

Tessa: Well... we both hate our jobs, we both have enough money that we could start a business if we wanted to, and on top of that we work really well together.

Jason: That's a good point. But what kind of business?

Tessa: Well actually I have a few ideas about that already, let me tell you about them.