

Litter

WORKSHEET A

Steve: I can't believe how dirty the town centre is.

Mark: What do you mean?

Steve: All this litter on the ground. Tin cans, sweet wrappers, crisp packets and fast food boxes everywhere you look. Stepping on bits of chewing gum all the time. It's disgusting.

Mark: Chill out. It's not the end of the world.

Steve: But what does it say about people's attitudes? Don't you think it shows a lack of respect?

Mark: How?

Steve: Dropping litter means spoiling a public space for other people. There should be big fines for it.

Mark: Come on, get off your high horse. There aren't enough bins, are there?

Steve: What?

Mark: The council doesn't provide enough bins, so people chuck stuff on the ground instead of having to walk around with it. You can't blame them.

Steve: You must be joking. There are bins everywhere but people are too lazy to use them.

Mark: Are you saying you've never dropped litter?

Steve: Almost never. At least not deliberately.

Mark: And also companies put too many wrappers around stuff. If there was less packaging there'd be less litter.

Steve: Well, that's true, yes.

Mark: And what about the street cleaners? If all the litter went in the bin they'd be out of work. There'd be more unemployment.

Steve: Don't be stupid. If there was less litter the street cleaners would just have an easier job. As it is, they have to clean up this mountain of rubbish – I bet you wouldn't want to be in their shoes, would you?

Mark: No, I wouldn't.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Here are some simple definitions for words that appear in the text on Worksheet A. Find the words they refer to and fill in the gaps.

1. to be ___ someone else's _____ (verb) to be in someone else's situation
2. _____ (adverb) the opposite of accidentally
3. _____ (noun) local government, e.g. for a city or county
4. _____ (verb – informal) to relax and stop being angry or nervous, or to spend time relaxing
5. _____ (noun) a piece of paper, plastic etc that has been put around something that you buy
6. _____ (noun) an amount of money that you have to pay because you have broken the law
7. _____ (verb) to say or think that someone or something is responsible for an accident, problem, or bad situation
8. _____ (verb) to affect something in a way that makes it worse, less attractive, or less enjoyable
9. _____ (verb – informal) to throw something, or to put something somewhere in a careless way
10. _____ (noun) the boxes, bottles, plastic etc used for wrapping products so that they can be sold

Exercise 2

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't say (D).

1. The town Steve and Mark are in is large.
2. Steve thinks dropping litter affects other people.
3. Steve disagrees with everything Mark says.
4. Mark thinks companies and the council could do more to prevent litter.
5. Mark does not think people drop litter deliberately.
6. Mark says street cleaners would be unemployed if there was no litter on the streets.
7. Steve thinks street cleaners are paid too little.
8. Mark has just stepped on a bit of chewing gum.

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Exercise 3

The text below, copied from Worksheet A, contains some mistakes. 20 of the bold words are incorrect, five are correct. Decide which are incorrect, and correct them.

Steve: I can't believe how dirty the town (1) **centre** is.

Mark: What do you mean?

Steve: All (2) **these** litter on the ground. Tin (3) **cones**, (4) **sweat** wrappers, (5) **crip** packets and fast food boxes everywhere you look. Stepping (6) **on** bits of chewing gum all the time. It's (7) **disgust**.

Mark: Chill (8) **up**. It's not the (9) **finish** of the world.

Steve: But what does it say about people's (10) **attitudes**? Don't you think it shows a
a
(11) **luck** of respect?

Mark: How?

Steve: Dropping litter means spoiling a (12) **public** space for other people. There should be big fines for it.

Mark: Come on, get off your (13) **tall** (14) **cow**. There aren't enough bins, are there?

Steve: What?

Mark: The council doesn't (15) **prove** enough bins, so people chuck stuff on the ground instead of having to walk around (16) **in** it. You can't blame them.

Steve: You must be (17) **joke**. There are bins everywhere but people are too lazy to use them.

Mark: Are you saying you've never dropped litter?

Steve: Almost never. At least not (18) **deliberate**.

Mark: And also companies put too much wrapping around stuff. If there was less packaging (19) **there's** (20) **fewer** litter.

Steve: Well, I agree with that.

Mark: And what about the street cleaners? If all the litter went in the bin they'd be (21) **out of the work**. There'd be more (22) **disemploy**.

Steve: Don't be stupid. If there was less litter the street cleaners would just have an (23) **easier** job. As it is, they have to clean (24) **down** this mountain of rubbish – I (25) **best** you wouldn't want to be in their shoes, would you?

Mark: No, I wouldn't.