

A good read?

WORKSHEET A

- Clare:** That's not your magazine, is it?
- Laura:** Yeah. Why?
- Clare:** I'm surprised you care what hairstyle Victoria Beckham's got, or what restaurant Brad Pitt and what's-her-name have been to.
- Laura:** Angelina Jolie.
- Clare:** Whatever. You're too intelligent for that.
- Laura:** What? Are you saying celebrity gossip magazines are just for thick people?
- Clare:** Yes, basically.
- Laura:** That's ridiculous!
- Clare:** Oh, sorry, I forgot – it's really *educational* to find out which famous actress looks a bit fat in her bikini on holiday. Everyone needs to know that.
- Laura:** Why should everything you read be educational? What's wrong with reading for a bit of fun?
- Clare:** Well-
- Laura:** You've never read this magazine, have you?
- Clare:** I don't need to. I know it's rubbish.
- Laura:** So you don't know what you're talking about.
- Clare:** I do know there are more important things in the world than Brad Pitt and Angela Jolie-
- Laura:** Angelina.
- Clare:** Whatever! Why don't you go and get a serious newspaper?
- Laura:** Oh, give me a break. Reading about the world's problems all the time is so depressing – and it doesn't make things any better, does it? And do you really think reading this means I can't read the papers as well? I can do both.
- Clare:** I still think it's sad that someone like you buys that every week.
- Laura:** Not as sad as Brad and Angelina, though. They might split up. What do you think will happen to their kids?
- Clare:** Oh, I give up.

A good read?

WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Answer the questions below.

1. What examples of subjects in celebrity gossip magazines do the two women give during the conversation?
2. What does Clare think Laura should read instead of the magazine?
3. How often does Clare think Laura buys her magazine?
4. Whose name does Clare get wrong?
5. At one point in the conversation one of the women says something sarcastic. What is it?
6. Laura gives two reasons for reading other things apart from serious newspapers. What are they?
7. Why do you think Clare says 'I give up'?
8. What do you think is the relationship between Clare and Laura, and why?

Exercise 2

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

1. Clare says she has also read the magazine she and Laura are talking about.
2. Clare thinks intelligent people shouldn't read celebrity gossip magazines.
3. Laura says it is possible to read serious newspapers *and* celebrity gossip magazines.
4. We find out at the end of the conversation that Clare *does* want to know what is in the magazine.
5. Laura thinks that reading should always be educational.
6. Clare has never read any kind of celebrity gossip magazine.
7. At the start of the conversation Clare wasn't sure if the magazine was Laura's.
8. Laura changes her mind during the conversation and begins to agree more with Clare.

A good read?

WORKSHEET C

Exercise 3

Below are some sentences from the text on Worksheet A, but the words in bold have been mixed up – can you put them back in the right places again?

‘Why should everything you read be (1) **know**?’

‘What’s wrong with reading for a bit of (2) **sad**?’

‘What do you think will (3) **educational** to their kids?’

‘They might split (4) **happen**.’

‘I’m surprised you (5) **serious** what (6) **important** Victoria Beckham’s got ...’

‘So you don’t (7) **fun** what you’re talking about.’

‘I still think it’s (8) **care** that someone like you buys that every week.’

‘I do know there are more (9) **give** things in the (10) **depressing** than Brad Pitt and Angela Jolie.’

‘Why don’t you go and (11) **hairstyle** a (12) **world** newspaper?’

‘Oh, (13) **up** me a break.’

‘Reading about the world’s problems all the time is so (14) **get** ...’