

1 Speaking

Work with a partner. Read the list of crimes and anti-social behaviour below and answer the questions.

- Which of them are problems where you live?
- Who should be responsible for solving them?

truancy	speeding	hooliganism	homelessness
graffiti	vandalism	begging	drinking and driving
dropping litter	drug abuse	anti-social neighbours	teenage anti-social behaviour

2 Pronunciation

Identify the stress in the words in the previous exercise. Practise saying them with a partner.

3 Listening



Listen to two members of the local government talking about social problems at a local council meeting. Make notes in the table. Make notes on what you hear in the table.

	Speaker 1	Speaker 2
What issues do they mention?		
What are the reasons for the problem and/or what solutions are suggested?		



Compare your answers with your partner then listen to check your answers. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the views presented?

4 Vocabulary

Work with a partner. Define the following words from the listening.

a shelter	
a motto	
a charity	
dramatically changed	
frequently cited	
precious	

5 Language



Listen again. Number the phrases in the order you hear them (two phrases are not used).

- It is frequently argued that ..., (however ...)
- X is clearly a topic of concern for people these days.
- There are several reasons for this: one ..., two ..., and finally ...
- The main reason for this is ...
- It's obvious that ...
- Another frequently cited cause is ...
- No one would dispute that ...
- It is generally accepted that ...

What functions do these phrases perform? Divide them into the categories below.

Introducing the topic	Supporting your argument

6 Language

Unscramble the following sentences.

1. for / is / life / main / modern / of / reason / stress / The / the / this
2. accepted / are / as / as / be / close / families / is / It / generally / not / that / they / to / used
3. a / argued / children / frequently / friends / have / influence / is / It / on / that / strong

7 Speaking

You are a member of the local government council where you live. The council has enough funding to tackle only one problem of anti-social behaviour and is meeting today to decide which problem it will try to solve.

Your teacher will give you a problem (or choose your own), which you want the council to allocate funds to solve.

With a partner, take notes about the problem, the reasons behind it and possible solutions, then prepare for a debate at the council meeting.

Think about how you can use the phrases for introducing the topic and supporting your argument.

Hold the council meeting. Each council member can present their issue, the reasons and the solutions. The other council members should listen and ask questions at the end of the presentation.

After everyone has had a chance to present their issue and ask questions to the other council members, vote to decide which problem to tackle. You cannot vote for your own!