

TD07: Certainty, habits and willingness

Exercise 1

Match each sentence with A or B as the best way of continuing. (Underlined words are stressed.)

- 1 They will have released the exam results by now.
A Mine came in the post this morning.
B Why hasn't the school been in touch to let us know?
- 2 Our parents would leave all the doors open when we were children, including the front door.
A It was really annoying because we had no privacy.
B There were far fewer worries about security in those days.
- 3 The representatives of the transport union will always recommend strike action.
A We're expecting the result of the ballot at one o'clock.
B It's as though they can't possibly accept an amicable settlement.
- 4 My grandmother will act as guarantor for the loan.
A It annoys me when she meddles in my affairs.
B She's always very happy to help her grandchildren.
- 5 Kerry and Mike will be arriving soon.
A They left on time and there aren't any hold-ups on the motorway.
B They're parking outside right now.
- 6 My computer wouldn't send any emails this morning.
A This is always happening. B I don't know what went wrong with it.
- 7 Jack will spend every Saturday afternoon in front of the TV watching football.
A I really wish we could sometimes do something together.
B He retired last week and doesn't have to work on Saturdays any more.
- 8 The travel agent wouldn't give me my money back.
A She was adamant that I needn't have cancelled the flight.
B She makes a habit of being unpleasant.

Exercise 2 Complete these dialogues, as in the example. Use will, won't, would + have if necessary, and a suitable form of the verbs in the box.

argue be check come out go out have hold prepare say start stop work

- 1 A Sue says she's enjoying the job but she's putting on weight.
B Yes, that because of all those long business lunches.
- 2 A Are you having problems with your new camera?'
B Yes, the flash in semi-darkness, only when it's fully dark.
- 3 A Shop assistants used to be more polite, didn't they?
B Yes, they always 'please' and 'thank you' and smile at you.
- 4 A Surely there are too many people here to get on one plane?
B No, a jumbo jet easily over 300 people.
- 5 A I hope Josh is OK at that summer camp. He might be homesick.
B Don't worry about him. He a great time!
- 6 A Do you think that Nick will win his case in court tomorrow?
B I hope so. I'm sure that his lawyer a solid defence.
- 7 A I don't think this new secretary is as good as Janice was.
B I don't know. Janice always whenever you criticised her typing.
- 8 A The new horse at the riding stables seems to be working out very well.
B Quite well, but he and eat whenever he gets the opportunity.
- 9 A Oh no, I've just noticed a mistake in the headline for the front-page article!
B Phone the printers. They printing it yet – they don't print until early morning.
- 10 A What happened after the car broke down?
B Well, we knew that no breakdown service at that time of night, so we slept in the car.
- 11 A Why are you and Jack arguing so much these days?
B He takes me for granted. He with his friends every evening and leave me at home.
- 12 A I've filled in the application form and written the letter. Can you read them for me?
B Christine them for you. She's an editor.

Exercise3: Rewrite the underlined parts of this phone conversation, using will, won't, would and wouldn't, as in the example

JAKE Hi, Alice, how nice to hear from you!

ALICE Actually, Jake, I'm phoning to ask you for some advice.

JAKE (0) I'm willing to help you if I can, of course.

ALICE Your mother receives help from the Council, doesn't she? Can you tell me what (1) they agree to do and what (2) they don't agree to do for older people?

JAKE Yes, of course. Mum has a home help. She comes three times a week. (3) She's perfectly happy to do light cleaning and (4) she's willing to get the shopping, but (5) she refuses to do anything heavy.

ALICE That's fair enough. What about cooking?

JAKE Well, when she first started (6) she was happy to prepare supper when she came, but she stopped that after a few weeks.

ALICE Why was that?

JAKE You know my mum. (7) She insists on saying exactly what she thinks. Apparently, the home help used to make vegetarian food and Mum didn't like it, so (8) she refused to eat it. Why are you asking, anyway?

ALICE It's Dad. He can't move around very easily now. The neighbours are great, (9) they make a habit of popping in but (10) he's unwilling to ask them for help.

JAKE Mmm. You can understand that.

ALICE Oh, but he's so impatient. I take him to the shops once a week, but yesterday (11) the car refused to start and I was about half an hour late. (12) Was he willing to wait for me? No, (13) he insists on trying to cope by himself! He went to the shops and collapsed on the way there.

JAKE Oh dear. It's a worry, isn't it? Look, if (14) you don't mind waiting for a moment, I'll look up the phone number for the right person at social services.