

5.6 Speaking

Problem solving

I can discuss problems and solutions, and express annoyance.

- 1 In pairs, describe what happened last time you experienced one of these problems.

- Something was lost or stolen (bag, keys, bike, etc.).
- Something was broken (computer, car, phone, etc.).
- Something was forgotten (test, alarm, appointment, etc.).



- 2 **CD•2.31 MP3•84** Listen to two friends, Hannah and Daniel, discussing a problem and answer the questions.

- 1 What was the problem and how did Hannah and Daniel try to solve it?
- 2 What would be a better solution in your opinion?
- 3 What do you think might happen next?

- 3 **CD•2.31 MP3•84** Choose the correct options to complete the **SPEAKING FOCUS**. Then listen again and check.

SPEAKING FOCUS

Talking about a problem

What's wrong/the matter?

What's ¹up/on (with it)?

I seem/appear to have lost/forgotten/broken ...

I haven't (got) a clue./I've no ²thought/idea./I wish I knew.

Every time I try to ..., it ...

Perhaps there's something wrong/a problem with the ...

Talking about a solution

Have you tried ...+ -ing?

It's worth a try/a go, I suppose.

I ³doubt/know that'll work/help, but let's see.

Problem solved!

No, that doesn't/didn't make any ⁴solution/difference.

Expressing annoyance

What are we ⁵about/supposed to do now?

Why on earth did/didn't you ... ?

How should I ⁶know/hink?

You should've checked/asked first.

You should've thought about that earlier.

- 4 **CD•2.32 MP3•85** Complete the conversations with one word in each gap. Sometimes more than one answer is possible. Then listen and check.

1

Abi and Beth are working in a supermarket during the school holidays.

Abi: What's ¹_____?

Beth: Well, unfortunately, I ²_____ to have broken the bar code scanner.

Abi: Oh no. What happened?

Beth: I put it on the table during the break and spilled my coffee on it – like an idiot!

Abi: Whoops. The manager isn't going to be happy.

Beth: Yeah, tell me about it. ³_____ time I try to switch it on, it beeps and switches off again.

Abi: Have you ⁴_____ drying it under the hand dryer in the toilets?

Beth: Actually, no, but it's worth a go, I ⁵_____.

2

Leo is working on his uncle's farm in the summer.

Pete: Hello, Woodtop Farm.

Leo: Uncle Pete, it's me. I'm in the bottom field. The tractor has broken down.

Pete: What? What's the ⁶_____ with it?

Leo: Er ... I ⁷_____ I knew.

Pete: OK, listen, are the lights working?

Leo: Hang on a second ... Yep.

Pete: OK, then it's not the battery. You did remember to put some fuel in it, right?

Leo: Er ... oh.

Pete: Leo! I told you it was nearly empty.

Leo: I, er ... I forgot. Sorry.

Pete: Well, you'll have to walk back up here and get some, won't you?

Leo: What? It's miles!

Pete: Well, you should have thought about that

⁸_____. Next time, perhaps you'll remember.

Leo: Can't you bring some down in the ... Hello? Hello?

- 5 In pairs, follow the instructions to prepare a conversation. Use the **SPEAKING FOCUS** to help you.

As part of a school project, you are giving a joint presentation about summer job opportunities in your local area. Together, you prepared notes and visuals on a laptop at home.

Student A: You were responsible for bringing a pen drive with all the notes and visuals. The presentation is in twenty minutes and you've just realised you left the pen drive at home.

Student B: You worked hard on the presentation and are very annoyed that your partner forgot to bring the pen drive.

There isn't enough time to go home. Together, you need to come up with a solution.

- 6 Practise your conversation and act it out.