

Unit 1 >>> Work on your weaknesses

A Carlos has been working on a project with two other students for the past six weeks, researching information to present in a slideshow to the class next week. The group is on schedule with the task. They agreed responsibilities at the start: Carlos carried out the initial research and the other students wrote the final presentation. But Carlos isn't satisfied with their slideshow. He thinks it's terrible and will be a total disaster. He wants to rewrite it before next week. However, the other students in the group disagree. They think the slideshow is fine, so Carlos has decided to rewrite it on his own. He hasn't said anything to the others, but he's so angry and resentful at this point that he feels like giving up.

B Kieran really likes a girl at school called Mia. They are in the same maths class and are both on the swimming team. Mia hangs out with a cool crowd and is very popular, whereas Kieran is part of a small group of close friends. But Mia's always friendly to Kieran. She often smiles at him, and they get on well when they work together in maths. Mia asked Kieran if he wanted to go for a coffee after swimming but he said no because he was too nervous. Now Kieran wants to ask Mia to go to the cinema sometime, but he doesn't see the point. He's convinced that Mia will say no, then tell her friends and they'll all laugh at him. He feels really miserable.

C Bea is 18. She's planning a trip abroad with some friends. It's the first time Bea will be going away without her parents and she's really excited. But Bea's parents are nervous. They've given their permission, but with conditions: they've asked Bea to show them her plans for travel and accommodation, and to show how she'll finance the trip. Bea thinks they're interfering and making a fuss. She isn't sure exactly where she's going to stay on holiday and she doesn't have enough money yet to pay for it, but she'll probably work something out by the summer. When Bea's parents tried to talk to her about their concerns, there was an argument and Bea ended up shouting at them.

REFLECTION POINT

To work on your weaknesses, you first need to identify them. You then need to make a plan that allows you to focus on improving one thing. At the same time, it's important to remember that we all have weaknesses and that nobody's 'perfect'.

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