

Conflict in relationships

Activity: Conflict scenarios

There are 4 conflict scenarios, discuss a scenario and talk about the questions. Each group should discuss at least 3 of the 4 scenarios.

Scenario 1.

Sophie and Mark have been going out with each other for nearly a year, they got together the night of Sophie's 16th birthday. They are both kind of busy just now, there's lots of work to do for school, both of them have jobs at the weekend because they are saving for a summer holiday. It feels like they don't see enough of each other, that they don't speak face to face as much as they used to. Sophie posted a photo from a party at the weekend, her ex was in the background. Mark hasn't been responding to any of Sophie's messages since and he was off school today. They meet at Starbucks at 6 as they had planned to last time they spoke on the phone. It doesn't take long before the conversation gets heated.

- What's your advice to Mark?
 - What's your advice to Sophie?
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Scenario 2.

Fiona and Emma got together recently, it's not been easy to find the time to meet up and spend time together because Fiona's parents don't approve that she is seeing a girl. Fiona is really into Emma and tells her this. Emma hasn't really responded to this, she hasn't said how she feels. They meet at a party at the weekend, they both know a lot of people there, they have a few drinks. Fiona says they need to talk, Emma doesn't want to. Fiona is getting upset, she tells Emma she's always avoiding talking. Emma is embarrassed, she tells Fiona to chill. Emma's getting louder and people are noticing.

- What's your advice to Emma?
- What's your advice to Fiona?

Scenario 3.

Paul and Isla get on really well. There's just this one thing that they can't agree on – each other's friends. Paul thinks Isla's friends are out to undermine their relationship, that they don't like him. Isla thinks Paul's friends just want him to be out with them, having a drink and being with other girls. It all kicks off when Isla messages Paul that she can't make it tonight because a friend has split up with her boyfriend and needs to see Isla. Paul gets back to say if that's the case he can't make it to her sister's party on Friday, the boys need him to join them for a night out. Several messages later its getting more agitated....

- What's your advice to Isla?
- What's your advice to Paul?

Scenario 4.

Joe and Archie have been dating for a few months. Friends and family are all pretty cool with them being gay. They have been spending time alone, but they haven't had sex. Whenever they are alone Joe is kind of pushing for sex to happen. Archie keeps just avoiding it. It's a Saturday night, at Joe's house and everyone else is out. They are on the couch and kissing, Joe is getting really into it, Archie just gets up and moves away. Joe is really annoyed and starts shouting at Archie, telling him to relax and just do it. Archie is upset, shouting back.

- What's your advice to Archie?
- What's your advice to Joe?