

THE ARTICLE (for instructors)

The Reasons for Bullying

Bullying in schools is a very serious problem. Children who get bullied may have problems later in life. They may get poorer grades, drop out of school, or even develop drug problems. Until recently, though, no one knew the reasons for bullying.

New research gives clues about bullying. Children who are picked on often lack social skills. They don't understand when other children feel annoyed or angry, for example. They don't know social rules and social skills as well as their peers. They may not know what to say or how to communicate well.

Of course, all humans want to have friends and be liked. Unfortunately, bullying creates a terrible cycle. Popular children have many friends, so they get to practice social interaction. Unpopular children get less practice. They have fewer chances to perfect social skills. They become the targets of bullying more and more frequently.

With the new information on bullying, teachers and parents can now provide help.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the answers.

STUDENT HANDOUT (extended listening)

Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare your answers with a partner, and then listen once more.

The Reasons for Bullying

Bullying in schools is a very serious problem. a) _____
_____. They may get poorer grades, drop out of school, or even develop drug problems. Until recently, though, no one knew the reasons for bullying.

New research gives clues about bullying. Children who are picked on often lack social skills. b) _____, for example. They don't know social rules and social skills as well as their peers. They may not know what to say or how to communicate well.

Of course, c) _____. Unfortunately, bullying creates a terrible cycle. Popular children have many friends, so they get to practice social interaction. Unpopular children get less practice. They have fewer chances to perfect social skills. They become the targets of bullying more and more frequently.

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Sentence #1:

Sentence #2:

Sentence #3:

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Lower-Intermediate - Listening

STEP ONE

Title: Today's article is: "The Reasons for Bullying." What will you read about?

STEP TWO

Questions: Read as much of the article as you can in two minutes. Guess the answers to the questions below, then listen to your teacher read the article. Try to confirm your answers.

a.	Bullies get poorer grades at school, or even develop drug problems.	T/F
b.	According to the article, many children lack social skills.	T/F
c.	Children who are bullied may not know how to communicate well.	T/F
d.	Bullying creates a cycle.	T/F
e.	The information from the research isn't very helpful.	T/F

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Listen to the article again. Fill in the blanks with the missing sentences.

STEP FOUR

Questions: Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	Why is bullying a serious problem?
b.	Which children lack social skills?
c.	The article refers to a terrible cycle. What does this mean?
d.	What does the article say about popular children?
e.	How does the article conclude?

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers and ask more questions with your partner.

a.	Did you like this article? Why/not?
b.	Is bullying a serious problem in your country? Why/not?
c.	Will bullying always be a problem? Why/not?