

## THE ARTICLE (for teachers)

### 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 recommended vocabulary for this lesson.

## WARM-UPS

Select one or all of the following warm-up activities.

**1: Define:** What does "bully" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?

**2: Brainstorm:** Brainstorm with a partner words and ideas for "bully" for two minutes. Next, talk about the words and ideas for five minutes.

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

**4: Discuss:** Answer these questions with a partner.

a.	Is bullying a problem? Why/not?
b.	Were you a bully when you were younger?
c.	Were you bullied when you were young?
d.	Are bullies bad people?
e.	Why are people bullied?



## WORD RECOGNITION

These activities are optional. They reinforce vocabulary and increase reading speed.

**1: Word Search:** Find only the target words (in bold). Time yourself, and see how long it takes to find all the words.

<b>peers develop</b>	<b>provide interaction</b>	<b>lack frequently</b>
Y I D R Y L Y Q W P C N S H D L V E E J L W V E R O M W C J T A N T V A T E R T G S X F J N N I M U E R N C K O G T M N U V B Q U S L A E T C E S P O E L C Z A F R O L U I A F F B Q X K J T E S M P U Q Q L U N E E I L T P R O V I D E O D D R M A N T B N S P D N P R S E F N I H I K C E N X W I R F V Q I C J X M U S P O O W G O E S Y S R A E P N N Z G Q M N L O N O I T C A R E T N I F I I L V M G M D M B B P P F J B P P J T N M G R C Y Q L E X P M		

**2: Target Word Pool:** Find only the target words (in bold) with their exact match. Time yourself, and see how long it takes to find all the words.

<b>peers develop</b>	<b>provide interaction</b>	<b>lack frequently</b>
prodigy      lackey frequent      personal      interactive provided pear      developed interacted      develop      interact      frequency development      provide      lacking infrequently      peer      providing lack interaction      peers      developer      frequently developing      action      frequently      luck lucky      providence      pears		

## pre- or post-COMPREHENSION

Select one or more activity to direct students before the article is read, or to check understanding after the article is read.

**1: Brainstorm Questions:** Brainstorm questions that you would like to ask about today's topic. Answer a partner the questions. He shouldn't look at the article when he answers.

**2: True or False?:** Guess (before the article) or answer (after the article) if the sentence is true or false. If false, correct the sentence.

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

**3: 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?

**4: Vocabulary:** In pairs/groups, remember how the words were used in today's article.

a.	develop:
b.	lack:
c.	peers:
d.	interaction:
e.	frequently:
f.	provide:

## post-COMPREHENSION

Select one or more activity to discuss the contents of the article.

**1: Vocabulary:** Circle any other unknown words/phrases in the article. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand these words. Write an example sentence for each one.

**2: Class Questions:** Read through the article once more, and write down any questions that you would like to talk about in pairs/groups or as a class. Answer the questions.

**3: Summarize:** Work with a partner to summarize the article in your own words.

**4: 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.	What would you do/say if your child were bullying someone?
d.	What would you do/say if your child were being bullied?
e.	Do you know any adult bullies?
f.	Will bullying always be a problem? Why/not?

**5: Discuss:** With a better understanding of bullying, what can teachers and parents do? Imagine ideas for both groups in order to stop bullying. Discuss with a partner.

<b>Parents:</b>
<b>Teachers:</b>

**6: Google Search:** Type "bully" into Google news and read additional articles on this topic. Discuss or write an essay about your findings.

## STUDENT HANDOUT (the article)

### 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.

**Notes:**

**STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)**

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

<b>interaction</b>	<b>unfortunately</b>	<b>lack</b>	<b>provide</b>	<b>understand</b>
<b>serious</b>	<b>frequently</b>	<b>information</b>	<b>peers</b>	<b>develop</b>

**The Reasons for Bullying**

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

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

Of course, all humans want to have friends and be liked. (f. \_\_\_\_\_), bullying creates a terrible cycle. Popular children have many friends, so they get to practice social (g. \_\_\_\_\_). Unpopular children get less practice. They have fewer chances to perfect social skills. They become the targets of bullying more and more (h. \_\_\_\_\_).

With the new (i. \_\_\_\_\_) on bullying, teachers and parents can now (j. \_\_\_\_\_) help.

## 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.

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

**Sentence #1:**

**Sentence #2:**

**Sentence #3:**

## ANSWER KEY

### Vocabulary

#### 1: Vocabulary Match:

a.	y
b.	u
c.	x
d.	v
e.	z
f.	w

#### 2: Fill in the Blanks:

a.	develop
b.	lack
c.	peers
d.	interaction
e.	frequently
f.	provide

### pre- or post-Comprehension

#### 1: True or False

a.	F
b.	F
c.	T
d.	T
e.	F

### Student Handout

#### 1: Fill in the Blanks:

a.	serious	f.	Unfortunately
b.	develop	g.	interaction
c.	lack	h.	frequently
d.	understand	i.	information
e.	peers	j.	provide

#### 2: Extended Listening:

a.	Children who get bullied may have problems later in life
b.	They don't understand when other children feel annoyed or angry
c.	all humans want to have friends and be liked