

## 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** may be vocabulary unfamiliar to the students.

## THE ARTICLE (for students)

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**Notes:**

# The Reasons for Bullying – February 07, 2010

Lower-Intermediate - Speaking

## STEP ONE

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

## STEP TWO

**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?

## STEP THREE

**The Article:** Read the article and work with a partner to understand it. Then summarize the article in your own words.

## STEP FOUR

**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?

## STEP FIVE

**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>Teacher:</b>