

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.

STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

interaction	unfortunately	lack	provide	understand
serious	frequently	information	peers	develop

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.

The Reasons for Bullying – February 07, 2010

Lower-Intermediate - Vocabulary

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

Vocabulary match: Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know.

a.	develop	u.	do not have
b.	lack	v.	communicate
c.	peer	w.	give
d.	interact	x.	friend
e.	frequent	y.	form
f.	provide	z.	often

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	peers	provide	lack
	develop	interaction	frequently
a.	Children may get poorer grades or even () drug problems.		
b.	Children who are picked on often () social skills.		
c.	They don't know social rules and social skills as well as their ().		
d.	Popular children have many friends, so they practice social ().		
e.	They become the targets of bullying more and more ().		
f.	With the new information on bullying, teachers can now () help.		

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Lower-Intermediate - Vocabulary

STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases you circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your comprehension.

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 FIVE

Discuss: Write down three vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it. Try to use today's vocabulary as much as possible.

a.	Is bullying a serious problem in your country? Why/not?
b.	What would you do/say if your child were bullying someone?
c.	Will bullying always be a problem? Why/not?

Score yourself:

7-10 times, or more: Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

4-6 times: Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home for more practice.

3 or less times: Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.