

# 39

## Relationships

### A Getting to know someone

- Tamara: You and Lee have been **going out together**<sup>1</sup> for ages now, haven't you?  
 Isabelle: Yes, we have. Longer than I'd ever have imagined when we **first met**.  
 Tamara: Why, didn't you like him much at first?  
 Isabelle: No, I **warmed to**<sup>2</sup> him at once – it was just the odd way we met.  
 Tamara: Oh, how was that? At a club or at work?  
 Isabelle: No, we got stuck together in a lift that broke down. That's **what brought us together**<sup>3</sup>! We were the only people there and we were there for nearly an hour, so we soon **struck up**<sup>4</sup> a conversation. We discovered we'd got a mutual friend – Jenny Gordon. You know her, don't you?  
 Tamara: I **know of**<sup>5</sup> her. I've **heard of**<sup>6</sup> her because my brother used to talk about her a lot, but I've never actually met her. She went to work in Australia, didn't she?  
 Isabelle: That's right. Lee had just **heard from** her, so he told me all her news and then we got on to all sorts of other things. Anyway, I thought he **was really nice**.  
 Tamara: So, you **flirted with**<sup>7</sup> him, no doubt!  
 Isabelle: Just a little, perhaps. Anyway, by the time they'd repaired the lift he'd asked me to **go out with** him. And that was six months ago!

<sup>1</sup> having a romantic relationship

<sup>2</sup> started to like

<sup>3</sup> caused us to be friendly with each other

<sup>4</sup> started (collocates with *conversation, friendship*)

<sup>5</sup> have heard of her but don't know her personally

<sup>6</sup> know a little about her because of being told about her

<sup>7</sup> talked and behaved in a way which shows someone that you are sexually attracted to them

### B Relationship problems

#### Ask the readers

Let our readers help with your relationship problems. Here are this week's letters.

We'll publish some of your answers next week.

I really like a boy in my English class. I'd love to ask him to **come out** with me, but should I wait for him to make the first move? – Anna, London

I am worried about my partner. He got **mixed up with** some untrustworthy people when he started a new job six months ago. Should I say anything to him? – Bea, Dundee

I have been happily married for ten years. However, lately, my husband has been getting more and more distant with me. I now suspect he may be **cheating on**<sup>1</sup> me. What should I do? – Melanie, Belfast

A few weeks ago I told my daughter-in-law that she **fusses** too much **over**<sup>2</sup> her children. I didn't mean to upset her, just to help. But it has caused a major **bust-up**<sup>3</sup> in our relationship and it's **come between**<sup>4</sup> me and my son as well. How can I **patch things up**<sup>5</sup>? – Carla, Glasgow

My best friend is always **sucking up to**<sup>6</sup> our lecturer. I think she's trying to **butter** him **up**<sup>7</sup> so she gets better grades. It's annoying and unfair. Should I say anything? – Di, Cardiff

<sup>1</sup> (informal) having a sexual relationship with someone else

<sup>2</sup> pays too much attention to

<sup>3</sup> (informal) break (in a relationship)

<sup>4</sup> spoil the relationship

<sup>5</sup> improve the situation

<sup>6</sup> (informal) trying to make the lecturer like her by doing and saying things that will please him

<sup>7</sup> (informal) be very nice to someone so they will do what you want

## Exercises

### 39.1 Rewrite the underlined part of each sentence, using a phrasal verb from A opposite. Make any other necessary changes.

- 1 Cindy: Do you know the novelist Jenny Parker?  
Alex: No, but I know a bit about her from what one or two people have told me.
- 2 Robert: I was surprised to hear Nick and Kirsten have got engaged.  
Anna: I wasn't. They've been having a romantic relationship for two years.
- 3 Max: Did you see Tim talking to that American girl at the party?  
Will: Yeah, he was chatting to her and behaving in a way which showed he was attracted to her all evening.
- 4 Jane: Did you have any success getting to know that dark-haired guy?  
Fiona: No. I tried to start a conversation with him, but he wasn't very friendly.
- 5 Derek: You seem to like the new boss, anyway.  
Freda: Yes, I started to like him straight away in fact. He's very nice.
- 6 Sara: Did you and Liam first meet at the tennis club?  
Diane: Yes, you could say it was tennis that caused us to be friendly with each other.

### 39.2 Correct the mistakes with the particles in these sentences.

- 1 I've never met Carol Goff, but I know with her because Charles works with her.
- 2 I had an email last month from Tony, but I haven't heard to him since then.
- 3 I think Joe is cheating to me. Somebody saw him out with another woman.
- 4 Mrs Looney fusses ever so much on her two sons, even though they're adults.
- 5 Irena spent all evening flirting to her friend's brother.
- 6 I'm afraid my son is getting mixed up of some bad company at university.
- 7 Marek struck off a conversation with the person sitting next to him and the flight passed quickly.
- 8 Rosa told me about your bust-out with Tony.

### 39.3 Answer these questions.

- 1 Janice and Roger are trying to patch things up. Are things good or bad between them at the moment?
- 2 If you warm to somebody, do you feel (a) anger towards them, (b) in love with them (c) a liking for them?
- 3 If a discussion about money comes between two people, what does it do to them?
- 4 If you suck up to your teacher, do you (a) say things to annoy him/her (b) say things to please him/her (c) respect him/her?
- 5 If you want someone to do something for you, what could you do to encourage them?
- 6 If you have a bust-up with someone, do you have (a) a big party to celebrate something (b) a match or competition to see who's best (c) an argument causing a break in your relationship?
- 7 If someone says 'Mary got mixed up with some guy from London', do they think Mary was in a good relationship or an undesirable one?
- 8 Which is correct in this sentence, *go* or *come*, or both?  
I really like Josh; I wish I had the courage to ask him to ..... out with me.

#### FOLLOW UP

Women's magazines are full of articles about relationships. Find an example of one. Make a note of any phrasal verbs that you find in the article you choose and write them down in their context.