

Annoying things

What annoys you much in life? Here's a list of really annoying things.



Before you listen

Pre-listening activity

Look at the words below. How What is annoying about each thing? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

Cars	Shops	The street
Computers	Mobile phones	Friends
TV	The home	Driving

After you listen

Comprehension task

Multiple choice

Choose A, B, or C for the following sentences:

- When you're _____ and someone in front of you is driving really slowly.
 - in a crash
 - in a rush
 - in a flash
- People who sit in _____ with the engine running.
 - parked cars
 - parking cars
 - packed cars
- When you call the customer service department of a large company and they put you on hold with some really
 - comic music
 - corny music.
 - gothic music
- Car passengers who _____ their doors open on the road without checking first.
 - row
 - blow
 - throw
- When you're _____ in the street and someone in front of you suddenly stops
 - talking
 - smoking
 - walking.
- People who touch the salt or pepper shaker with _____
 - greasy fingers

- b. easy fingers
c. freezing fingers
7. Having a drawer full of _____ but not the one you need.
a. potteries
b. batteries
c. lotteries
8. _____ callers who ask to speak to “the man of the house”.
a. coal
b. goal
c. cold
9. When you’re in the cinema and there’s someone who just _____ stop talking.
a. won’t
b. want
c. don’t

Fill in the gaps.

Complete the sentences with a suitable word or words.

What annoys you most in life? Here’s our list of really annoying things:

1. People who don’t cover their mouth when they _____ or _____.
2. When someone _____ more than an hour late for a dinner you’ve prepared.
3. TV or radio ads with doorbells, _____ or alarm clocks.
4. _____ who ignore you in order to attend someone who has just phoned up.
5. People talking on their mobile phones who say things such as, “Hi, I’m on the train! We’ve just _____.”
6. Company reps who can’t give you an _____ when they can deliver your fridge or washing machine so you have to _____ at home for hours.
7. Discovering a shoe but not being able to _____.
8. When you’re watching TV and someone _____ without asking.
9. When you’re on the phone and someone puts you _____ without warning.
10. A _____ or _____ that has become hopelessly tangled.
11. People who point to their _____ when asking, “What time is it?” Do we point to our stomachs when we order a burger?

Classroom debate

1. Do you agree with any of the ideas mentioned in this article?
2. What is the most annoying thing that has happened to you today?
3. What is the most annoying thing that has happened to you this month?
4. What is the most annoying thing that has ever happened to you?

Answer key

Multiple choice:

1. In a rush (b).
2. Parked cars (a).
3. Corny music (b).
4. Throw (c).
5. Walking (c).
6. Greasy fingers (a).
7. Batteries (b).
8. Cold (c).
9. Won't (a).

Fill in the gaps:

1. Cough, sneeze
2. Shows up
3. Ringing phones
4. Shop assistants
5. Left the station
6. Exact time, sit around
7. Find its mate
8. Changes the channel
9. On speakerphone
10. Phone cord, hairdryer cord
11. Wrists

Transcript

What annoys you most in life? Here's our list of really annoying things:

- People who don't cover their mouth when they **cough** or **sneeze**.
- When you're **in a rush** and someone in front of you is driving really slowly.
- When someone shows up more than an hour late for a dinner you've prepared.
- People who sit in parked cars with the engine **running**.
- TV or radio ads with doorbells, ringing phones or alarm clocks.
- When you call the customer service department of a large company and they **put you on hold** with some really **corny** music.
- Shop assistants who ignore you in order to attend someone who has just phoned up.
- Car passengers who throw their doors open on the road without checking first.
- People talking on their mobile phones who say things such as, "Hi, I'm on the train! We've just left the station."
- When you're walking in the street and someone in front of you suddenly stops.
- When someone says "drop it" when a conversation goes into an unwanted direction.
- Company **reps** who can't give you an exact time when they can **deliver** your **fridge** or washing machine so you have to sit around at home for hours.
- People who touch the salt or pepper shaker with **greasy** fingers.
- Discovering a shoe but not being able to find its **mate**.
- Having a **drawer** full of batteries but not the one you need.
- When you're watching TV and someone changes the channel without asking.
- Someone who stands in front of the TV and starts talking to you at the end of a TV programme you're watching.
- Finding a TV **remote** in the car or anywhere else where it couldn't possibly be used.
- When you're on the phone and someone puts you on **speakerphone** without warning.
- Anonymous calls from other mobile phone companies offering you their services!
- A phone **cord** or hairdryer cord that has become hopelessly **tangled**.
- **Cold callers** who ask to speak to "the man of the house".
- People who point to their **wrists** when asking, "What time is it?" Do we point to our stomachs when we order a burger?
- When you hold the door open for someone and they just walk through without saying "thank you".
- When you're in the cinema and there's someone who just won't stop talking.

Glossary

To cough *vb*

To force air out of your lungs with a sudden, loud noise, often because you're sick

To sneeze *vb*

To force air out of your nose with a sudden, loud noise, often because you're sick

In a rush *exp*

If you're "in a rush", you need to go somewhere quickly

Running *adj*

If the car is "running", the engine is on and working

To put someone on hold *exp*

If you "put someone on hold", you block the phone call temporarily while you transfer the call, or speak to someone else

Corny *adj*

"Corny" music is not cool / not original / old fashioned, etc.

A rep *n*

A representative – someone who represents a company

To deliver *vb*

If you "deliver" goods, you take them from A to B

A fridge *n*

An appliance in the kitchen for keeping food cold

Greasy *adj*

if you have "greasy" fingers, you have oil / fat on them

A mate *n*

a partner / the other thing that forms part of the pair (in this case, the matching sock)

A drawer *n*

A box in a piece of furniture for keeping things

A remote *n*

The remote control – the device you can use to change the channels on a TV

Speakerphone *n*

A device in a telephone that allows you to hear the other person through a speaker

A cord *n*

The cable that connects a phone / hairdryer, etc. to the electricity

Tangled *adj*

If a cable / cord has become "tangled", it is all mixed up and in a mess

A cold caller *n*

A salesperson who calls up people they don't know in order to sell things to them

A wrist *n*

The joint that connects your hand to your arm