Fred
People won't let me finish talking!

1. My name is Fred, and I can't stand it when people interrupt me! Often, when I am trying to explain something important, like how to get to the next level on a video game, people will start talking about something else, or even walk away, which is very rude. What can I ever do about such rude people?

Allison
My voice sounds fine. People are hearing it wrong!

2. My name is Allison, and I get annoyed and confused when people tell me to talk louder. When I speak, I can hear my voice just fine! So when people say, "Speak up, Allison!" I think they must have a problem with their hearing, or else they are just not listening, or else they are trying to bother me and be mean. What can I do to get people to just listen better and quit telling me to talk louder?

Greta
Saying "hi" can be very tiresome for me!

3. My name is Greta, and I am getting tired of adults reminding me all the time to "say hi" and "say hello". I guess they are trying to make me act all friendly and polite. The trouble is, I often have important things on my mind, and when I say "hi," people often start talking to me about all kinds of things I am not expecting. This quickly distracts me from the important things I am thinking about, and I get nervous and upset.

Bethany
People don't like the things I like!

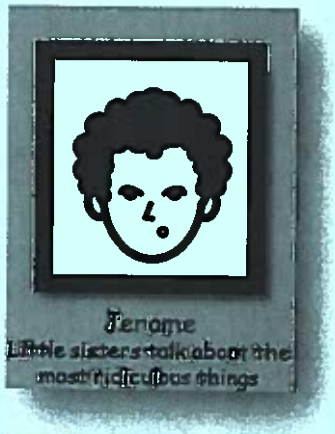
4. My name is Bethany, and I can't get people to talk about the video game I play. This video game is amazing – why won't people show interest? When I try to start conversations with people, I notice they often go right back to talking about things that are not very interesting, like the weather, what's for lunch in the cafeteria, what somebody is wearing, whether the English test is going to be hard, whatever. They are very boring, aren't they?

5. My name is June, and I believe in being honest. Lying is bad! So, when Aunt Cathy gave my brother the new red shirt, I told her that my brother does *not* like red, which is true, he *hates* it. Dad told me to be quiet. My brother said, "Nice red shirt!" which is a lie, 'cause he will never wear that shirt, ever. Anyhow, I am going to keep telling the truth, because that is the best thing to do, right?

6. My name is Frank, and I am having a hard time with the way my dad walks. I know he knows how to be fast – he works out on a treadmill every day! But when we are together, like at the store, he won't keep up with me when I need to go faster. Then he sounds angry and says "Slow down!" or "Walk with me, for God's sake." What can I do to get him to just speed up when he needs to?

7. My name is Rob, and I have gotten good at "eye contact," which is when you look right at a person's eyes. I am 12 years old, and I like pretty girls. I always try my best to smile and look right into their eyes whenever I can. When I do this, it feels good, and also I know that I am doing just what my teacher and the speech lady have been telling me to do for years. Yesterday, a girl said "Stop smiling!" But I will keep smiling , because that is how I have been taught.

8. My name is Ted, and I have a new idea for what they should teach in social skills. Have you noticed that when you are playing a game on your phone or PSP or whatever, that people will start talking to you and they expect you to *look up right away and answer*? People need to learn to *wait a minute*, until it's a convenient time to pause the game. I'm going to start reminding people to be more polite in this way. Isn't that a good idea?



9. My name is Jerome, and may I start by saying that little sisters are very annoying, am I right? My own little sister, Tanya, has starting to talk a lot more at the dinner table. She does not seem to understand that dinner time is when Dad and I talk about computers. And Tanya keeps talking about *ponies*, over and over! This seems very rude to me. Can you please help me figure out a way to get her to stop?

10. My name is Lisa, and I would like your advice on how to get adults to stop telling me to hang out with kids my age. I spent a lot of time trying to socialize with other young people in the past, and it did not work out well. None of these kids had the same interests as me. Many of them seemed loud, rude and mean. I am usually happy enough doing things by myself. What is the best way to get parents and teachers to stop telling me to "be more sociable?"

11. My name is Anita, and I need your help getting people to back off and let me be my own self. I have these shoes that I love. They have Cinderella pictures on them. When I wear them every day it makes me feel really good. My teacher, my friend John and my dad have all told me to stop wearing them every day. People should leave me alone! I'm a good person, and my Cinderella shoes aren't hurting anyone. What words should I use to tell people to leave me alone?

12. My name is Victoria – maybe some of you know me on Facebook? I have more than 300 Facebook friends, and hundreds more on other sites. My mom has been trying to make me spend less time online. She even took away my phone once. My speech teacher keeps trying to make me talk to more kids at school and "make friends." But I know who my real friends are – they are my online friends. I know my speech teacher is trying to be helpful, but please tell me how to get her to leave me alone!

13. My name is Patricia, and I miss the old days when I wasn't so lonely. Back then, my mom used to call up other moms and set up play dates for me and my friends. Now, I don't get invited anywhere. I try to get up my courage to go talk to kids I used to know. But then I get real nervous. I start to think they don't really want to talk with me or play with me.

14. My name is Laura and I don't like the way kids my age behave. When we were all younger, the grown-ups could make them all behave well. But now the students in my school often get away with things like saying bad words, sneaking out their phones when it is not allowed, and wearing clothes that are against school rules. *I* am *different.* I am a good person who follows rules compared with them, so I am not going to hang out with kids my age.

15. My name is Brian, and I have this problem with my parents and teachers treating me unfairly. I do lots of work at school, all day long. Then, when I come home, everyone expects me to do even more! Last night, I only had one hour for Minecraft after I finished my homework. And on Saturday, my dad gave me a brand new chore – raking leaves! This completely ruined my plans to work on my Lego projects. Help me find a way to get back the free time that was stolen from me!

16. My name is Troy, and I guess I need help with recess, in case you have any ideas. The boys are mainly playing ball games that I am bad at, and to be honest I'm afraid the ball might hit me. I used to go talk with some girls but lately they are all talking together in little groups. When I go hang out with the playground teacher, she just says "You need to go play." Maybe I should just go on the swings until recess is over.

Rachel
I hate the lunchroom

17. My name is Rachel, and being in the lunchroom is really hard for me. The smells of foods I don't like, the loud noise, the crowding, are all hard for me to deal with. My school counselor has been trying to get me to talk with kids while eating lunch. But being in the lunchroom makes me feel so awful that I don't really feel like talking much. Lately, I have also been getting some stomach aches while I am there. What should I do?

Tom
I love my fantasy world best

18. My name is Tom, and I have amazing things going on in my mind. I create pretend stories that are as good as movies - even *better*. And I think about this pretend stuff a whole lot at home and even during the school day. While other kids are chatting before class, I am often thinking about my own special pretend world. Grown-ups have been warning me "don't get lost in your imaginary world!" But I don't want to change. My pretend world is the best world there is.

Alicia
School seems useless for a future video game designer

19. My name is Alicia, and I am going to be a successful video game designer. I have already starting learning how on my computer at home. Most of what they have me doing at school is a waste of my time. It has nothing to do with designing video games. Like my French class. That class, like so many others, is pointless, so I stopped doing any work in that class. Please help me find a way to convince my parents to give me back my computer – they have taken it away from me as punishment!

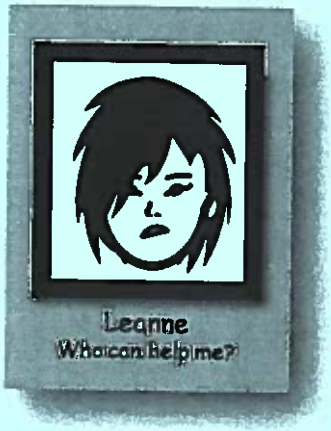
Bradley
This new teacher does things the wrong way!

20. My name is Bradley, and I have some complaints about this new teacher, Ms. Bricker. Ms. Bricker became our teacher right after our teacher Ms. Allen had her baby and went to stay home. Ms. Bricker does not know the rules and routines in our class, and when I try to nicely point out how Ms. Allen used to do things, Ms. Bricker does not usually even say "thank you!" Sometimes, Ms. Bricker even says, "Stop telling me what to do." Please help me to find new and better ways to help our new teacher to do things the *right* way.

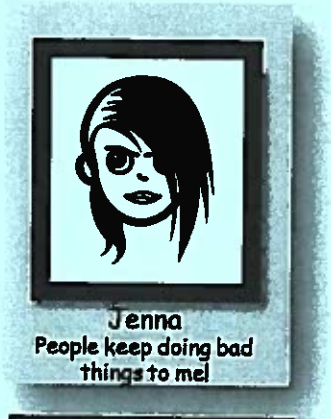
21. My name is Emily. *NOT* "Emmie" or "Em." Definitely *NOT* "Emmie Lou," which is what some kids were calling me yesterday. Some girls said "let's give each other nick names" and then everyone picked one out. I warned them to stop messing with my name, but did they listen? No. That's why I yelled at them really loud to stop. Worst of all, some of the kids kept their stupid new names! It was hard enough in the first place to learn their *real* names.

22. My name is Allen. People have been mean to me and I'm not going to put up with it anymore. I'm going to get even with the people who made fun of me, said bad things about me and stole stuff from me. I have already tried telling adults about my problems with kids being mean. Yes, I told adults two times in the past six months, and the kids just kept giving me trouble. I'm not sure yet what I am going to do to get back at these mean kids, but believe me – they are all going to be *very sorry*!

23. My name is Tristan, and I am definitely NOT a bully, even though my dad called me one after something happened between me and my little brother. I know all about bullies – we learned about them at school. They are the mean boys who push me and take my ball on the playground. But that is nothing like *me!* If *I* push my little brother around sometimes, that's only normal and that's what brothers do.



24. My name is Leanne, and it seems as though I have done everything possible to deal with mean people. I tried ignoring them. Then I tried walking away – but they followed me. Then I tried telling them, "Please stop!" but they kept right on teasing me. I even told my best friend – but she can't make them stop teasing me, either. I know that I can't go to a teacher or my parents, because that would make me a "tattletale." What should I do?



25. My name is Jenna. People do bad things to me! Last week, on the playground, some boys were kicking a ball and the ball hit me in the head! Later, I got bumped in the hallway and my books fell and scattered everywhere! And I just heard that today's field trip to the zoo is cancelled because the bus is broken. Why can't they just fix it? People do so many bad things to make me unhappy!

26. My name is Damien. I have *hundreds* of friends – and every one of *you* will soon be my friends too! People love me because I am handsome, funny and cool. I like to give lots of hugs to the many people who love me, as well as hand shakes and high fives. I like to meet new people everywhere I go, like at the store and even on the street, and tell them all kinds of nice things about me and my family. Some adults tell me to be more careful, and not so friendly, but I think they're wrong – don't you?

27. My name is Sarah. There are not many things to like about me. I am not pretty and I am not very smart. My family has very little money and we don't own nice things. I don't have any friends. People notice that I am not very smart, pretty or cool and then they are mean to me. I don't trust people – you never know what mean, bad thing they are going to do next. My life has always been this way and it will always stay this way.

28. My name is Joseph. It seems like every time I get a friend, someone steals him away from me. Last week, my friend Josh and I were sitting together at lunch. We always sit together and talk about Pokémon at lunch. But then Josh invited Larry to come sit with us! And then Josh and Larry started talking about *football*, which I hate! This always happens. I get a friend and then my friend gets stolen away from me. What can I do to get my friend back?

29. My name is Hannah. I just *love* having fun! For me, that means being kind of wild and crazy when I play. If I am not loud, or running around, or laughing a lot, then that is just not fun. Grown-ups keep telling me to "act my age," but I can't change. I am just "wild and crazy Hannah" and that is what other kids *love* about me!

30. My name is Lydia. My dad has been trying to get me to invite over someone to play. This makes me nervous – what would we do together? What if the person does not like to play what I like? My dad has also been trying to get me to go play at someone else's house. This makes me even more nervous. What if that kid's video games are different and strange to me? What if they give me a snack that I don't like? Tell me please – what can I do to get my Dad to leave me alone?

31. My name is Ryan. It is important for me to make sure that adults know whenever anyone is breaking the rules. Like when that one kid pulled the fire alarm. *I* told the teacher. Or when that girl didn't tie her shoes the way the teacher said – *I* made sure the teacher knew! Or when that boy on the playground said something bad about his mother – I went and told his mother later that day! Kids sometimes call me "tattletale" but I know they're wrong – grown-ups need me to let them know what kids are up to!

32. My name is Mary. I am very good at finding things that need to be fixed or corrected.. Last week, I even found a small mistake on a test the teacher made, and she thanked me for pointing it out. Yesterday, when we had a visitor come to the classroom, I raised my hand to let the visitor know that she had pronounced one boy's name the wrong way. This morning, I noticed that Anna had taken off her glasses for a moment, and I told her she needed to put them back on. She said, "Mind your own business!" Uh oh - I had better tell the teacher about this!

33. My name is Sophia Zullo. This puts me at the very *end* of when we line up in alphabetical order, but that is the only time I am *not* first. I try to be first when we are in the lunch line. When I am playing a game with friends, I do enjoy it much more when I can go first. When I have my hand up to answer a question, I just love it when the teacher calls on me instead of someone else. Don't you feel good and important when you are first? Me too!

34. My name is Jack, and my new girlfriend is named Julie! Here is how I found out she was my girlfriend. First, she always smiles and says "hi" when she sees me. Second, she made the bullies go away when they knocked me down in the hallway. Third, we had a great time yesterday playing basketball together on the playground. Fourth, she said she likes my new Air Jordan shoes. I have started telling people Julie is my girlfriend. I hope you will also tell everyone you know!

35. My name is Patricia Kelly, not Patricia *Smelly*, like some kids have been calling me lately! Some of them are saying that I smell bad, but when I smell myself I don't notice anything different. One girl said, "Don't you even *shower*?" and this was a mean thing to say, because I do shower every few days. How can I ever make people stop meaning so nasty to me?

36. My name is Anita. I love playing Super Mario and I am proud of how well I play it. My friend Carol comes over to play Super Mario with me. After a few months, something terrible happened. Carol started beating me! This was awful for me because I love winning the game, and it is *my* game and it is *my* house! Last week, I cried and got mad at Carol, and now she has stopped coming over to my house. Dad is telling me to call her up, apologize, and invite her over, but I won't. To be honest, I like playing my game better by myself.

37. My name is Colin. Yesterday, some kids got me in trouble on the playground, and it was completely unfair! First we were playing a game of tag. Then, a few of the kids made up a new rule: you had to tag a person *twice,* not once, when you are "it." I explained that the kids that this is not the right way to play, but they did not listen, so I had to yell at them very loudly. The playground teacher made me sit down the rest of recess, which is so unfair! The *other kids* were the ones breaking rules, not *me!*

38. My name is Carl. Next week, my family is moving to a new house, and I am terribly worried about it. I have seen the new house, and things are all different there. They took me on a tour of my new school, and it was so hard for me to see all that new stuff that I felt like I was going to throw up. Thinking about moving is so much on my mind that I can't even enjoy my video games anymore. Mom tells me things will be okay, but I know different: it is going to be the worst thing ever.

39. My name is Jake. Bad things keep happening to me. My only good friend, Jason, moved away. My dad left last year and he only just calls on the phone sometimes since then. Our principal, Dr. Nelson, got transferred to a different school at the end of last school year, and the new principal seems pretty mean to me. In my life, I just end up being alone and lonely. That's the way it has been in the past, and that's the way it's going it's going to stay.

40. My name is Melody. I am 11 years old, and I am different now compared to when I was younger. A couple years ago, I used to cry at school, and have meltdowns, and I hardly talked to anyone back then. I am much better now. I almost never cry in school. I have not had a meltdown in a year. And I am better at talking to kids. But I believe that all the kids remember how I used to behave. They are probably talking about it all the time. I doubt if anybody will want to be my friend.