

EPISODE 88
LEVEL A1.2/A2.1

READING COMPREHENSION



BEING WORRIED

I'm sorry I haven't written for so long, but I've had some **problems** recently. In fact, I'm quite **worried** (= nervous for a longer time because of problems) about the future now.

You know I lost my job a few months ago - I'm still looking for something interesting, but it's difficult and I'm beginning to get quite **stressed** (= worried about the situation) . I feel I'm **in trouble** (= I am in a difficult situation) because I'm too old now to start a completely new career and we are starting to have **financial difficulties** (= problems because I don't have enough money) as well.

My wife Emma has had some **health problems** recently, which is also very **troubling** (= it makes me worried), and I don't want to talk to her about my feelings because I don't want to **upset** her (= make her worried, sad and unhappy) . She tries to be positive and sings 'Don't worry, be happy' to me all the time, but I can see she is also **worried sick** (= an idiom meaning very worried).

So, you can see I'm **in hot water** (= I have a lot of problems) now! I could really use a fishing weekend - how about sometime in May?

Robert



More contexts for the new words:

- I'm **worried about** the future. / I'm **worried because of** the situation.
- I'm **stressed with** my work. / I'm **stressed because of** my work.



EXERCISE 1

Add the missing vowels (a, e, l, o, u).

1. I am in hot WTR after losing my job.
2. I feel WRRD about my future.
3. John has had some health PRBLMS recently.
4. My wife is worried SCK about our kids.
5. Teenagers often get themselves in TRBL.

6. Work can make you quite STRSSD.



EXERCISE 2

Match the question halves, then answer the questions.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. What health problems | a. stressed? Why/ why not? |
| 2. When was the last time you had | b. financial difficulties? |
| 3. Does your job make you | c. have you had recently? |

ENGLISH IN USE



There are many adjectives in English which end in '-ed' or '-ing'. This is the difference between the two groups:

*I am **worried**. The situation is **worrying**.*

*I am **troubled**. The situation is **troubling**.*

*I am **bored**. The film is **boring**.*

*I am **interested**. The film is **interesting**.*

Adjectives ending in '-ed' describe the way a person is feeling.

Adjectives ending in '-ing' describe something which has an effect on the person.

IDIOM CLOSE-UP



A/ There's so much to do while renovating the house.

*B/ **DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING**. The people we've hired will take care of everything.*

When you say '**Don't worry about a thing**', you advise someone not to be anxious, and say that everything will be all right.

PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP



1. If you **FREAK OUT**, you start behaving in a very strange or violent way. This is an informal expression. You can also 'freak someone out'.

*I **freaked out** when I saw my husband kissing another woman.*

*It **freaked me out** to discover that the girl I was talking to was really a boy.*

2. If you FLIP OUT, you start to behave in a very excited or strange way. This is informal and mainly used in American English.

*He **flipped out** when they wouldn't let him go to the party.
The children **flipped out** when they met Donald Duck.*



EXERCISE 3

Complete the mini-story, filling each gap with one word.

Sam and Sue were a very happy couple. One day, however, Sue saw Sam in the street, standing with his back to her, and kissing another woman! Sue really freaked (1), ran to the man, hit him on the head with her handbag and started screaming. The man turned... and it wasn't Sam at all! He laughed and said nothing bad had happened. However, the woman he had been kissing thought that Sue was Sam's ex-girlfriend, and she totally flipped (2) - she started shouting, 'I'll kill you! I'll kill you!'

The poor man didn't know what to do. Suddenly an idea came to him and he started signing to himself, 'Don't worry about a (3) ' He was a real optimist!

NEWS



Don't Worry, Be Happy

I'm sure you know the famous song 'Don't Worry, Be Happy' by Bobby McFerrin. But do you know the **lyrics**? Here's the beginning:

*Here is a little song I wrote
You might want to sing it **note** for note
Don't worry be happy
In every life we have some trouble
When you worry you make it double
Don't worry, be happy*

*Ain't got no place to lay your head
Somebody came and took your bed
Don't worry, be happy
The **landlord** say your **rent** is late
He may have to **litigate**
Don't worry, be happy*

*Look at me I am happy
Don't worry, be happy
Here I give you my phone number
When you worry call me
I make you happy*

And you? Who do you call when you worry?

GLOSSARY

- **lyrics** – text of a song
- a **note** – a musical sound
- **landlord** – owner of your flat
- **rent** – money you pay for your flat
- **litigate** – go to court

KEY TO EXERCISES

Ex.1

1. water
2. worried
3. problems
4. sick
5. trouble
6. stressed

Ex. 2

1. c
2. b
3. a

Ex.3

1. out
2. out
3. thing