

# Play your part 1

## A family dilemma

**1** Christopher and Sharon Kent have got a problem. Here is some background information about the situation that is causing them sleepless nights. Read the information carefully.



**3a** Work with a partner. Read the *background information* again. Choose what you think are the three most 'difficult' aspects of the problem. Then make groups of four and compare lists.

**3b** **T1/10** Listen to what Christopher thinks about the idea of moving into their house. Make notes on the things he would like about living there and the problems that he thinks the move would cause. Discuss the points he made. Suggest possible solutions for the problems he mentions.

**3c** Sharon would very much like to live in the house. What do you think she would say about the following things if she wanted to persuade Christopher to move there?  
a) his job   b) her job   c) transport   d) her mother   e) money

### Background information

- The Kents have got three children: Simon (18 years old), Jane (16) and Tom (8).
- The Kents live in a relatively cheap, rented flat in a medium-sized town.
- The flat is about ten minutes away from Christopher's office by car.
- Christopher Kent has got an interesting job in a large publishing company.
- Sharon Kent is a part-time nurse at a hospital in the town where they live.
- Sharon's mother died five years ago. In her will she left the family home to her daughter. She also expressed the wish that the family should live in the house.
- The house is in the country, over an hour away from Christopher's office by car.
- The house needed a lot of renovation work – which was more expensive than they had expected.
- The Kents decided not to move into the house immediately after the renovation had been completed. They had borrowed a lot of money from the bank and wanted to pay some of that money back.
- When they advertised for tenants, several people offered to buy it at a good price. The Kents have refused to sell up to now.
- They let the house to a successful writer and her husband. She's just finished her new novel and they're going to move out in a couple of months.

**2** Why do you think Sharon's mother made it a condition that Sharon and Christopher should live in the house with their children? Speculate about these possible reasons.

keep Sharon's family in the area

stop Christopher and Sharon spending the inheritance

provide security for grandchildren's future



make Sharon independent of Christopher

keep the past alive

**4** Work with a partner. Write six sentences about Christopher and Sharon's problem using these words and expressions:  
*commuter   inconvenient   make a compromise   costs   quality of life   make a decision*  
Compare sentences with two other people in your class.

**5** The Kents' problem is not limited to what Christopher and Sharon want or feel. There are three children in the family, too! Make two groups. One group is going to argue **for** moving into the house (please look at page 123). The other group is going to argue **against** moving into the house (please look at page 127).

### Play your part

Christopher would be very happy if someone else could decide what the family should do. Discuss the Kents' problem and see if your class can make the decision for them. Don't forget to consider everybody in the family!

Now you can read and / or listen to the story that is on the next page. It's called *Old friends* and is about an elderly lady who might have to move out of her home.

If you've got time and you'd like to do an extra task about the topic of this unit, turn to page 130.