

Modals: Giving Advice

**READING
TEXT**

The following letter was written by “Frustrated in Fredericton”, a young woman who is having a problem with her boyfriend. She is writing to a newspaper advice columnist, Hortense Heartache, to try to get some help. First, read the letter. Then, answer the vocabulary and comprehension question. Then, write a response giving “Frustrated in Fredericton” some advice about what to do with her boyfriend. Hortense’s response, and some more vocabulary and questions, are on the following page. Do not read Hortense’s answer until after you have finished your own.

Dear Hortense:

I have been living with my boyfriend, Jeff, for the last three years. Jeff is a good and loving boyfriend, but we have one problem which is driving me crazy. Jeff will not lift a finger to help around the house.

I have tried everything I can think of to get Jeff to help me with the housework, but nothing has worked. I have asked politely; without nagging. I have nagged. I have explained the importance of housework. I have gotten mad at him. I have thrown a temper tantrum. Nothing has worked. Jeff always says that he wants to help, but then he does nothing.

We both work, but we don’t have the money to hire a cleaning service. I’m afraid that this situation could destroy our relationship, because I think I’m starting to hate Jeff because of this. His laziness disgusts me. Help me Hortense!

Frustrated in Fredericton.

Write a sentence with each of the following words and expressions from the letter above.

1. **TO LIFT A FINGER** _____
2. **TO NAG** _____
3. **TO HIRE** _____
4. **TO DESTROY** _____

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- 5. **TO THROW A TEMPER** _____
- 6. **TO DISGUST** _____

Answer the following questions.

- 1. What is “Frustrated in Fredericton’s” problem?

- 2. What else could “Frustrated in Fredericton” do to encourage Jeff to do some housework?

- 3. Is “Frustrated in Fredericton” right to complain, or should she accept Jeff the way he is?

YOUR RESPONSE

Dear Frustrated in Fredericton,

HORTENSE'S RESPONSE

Dear Frustrated in Fredericton:

Jeff's refusal to help you with the housework is a very bad thing. I think that this is a form of aggression, and that Jeff is trying to show you that he really doesn't love or respect you. If Jeff only wants to use you as a free maid service, you should reconsider your relationship with him and if necessary you should get someone else who will appreciate you.

Hortense Heartache.

Write a your own sentence with each of the following words and expressions from the letter above

- 1. **REFUSAL** _____
- 2. **AGGRESSION** _____
- 3. **TO RECONSIDER** _____
- 4. **A MAID** _____

Answer the following questions.

- 1. What advice does Hortense give “Frustrated in Fredericton” ?

- 2. Do you think this is good advice? Why or why not?

- 3. What advice is more reasonable? Hortense's or yours? Why?

- 4. If you were “Frustrated in Fredericton”, what would you do?

- 5. If you were Jeff, what would you do?
