

Neighbors Fed Up with Loud Music

1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 43.

What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.

LONDON, ENGLAND ¹James Meadows, 28, doesn't **get along with** his neighbors. He likes to play loud music. ²But his neighbors **are fed up with** it. ³**Again and again** they report the problem to the police. They tell Meadows to **turn down** the volume. ⁴But Meadows ignores the warnings and continues to play loud music. ⁵Finally, the police **take away** his \$700 stereo. They smash it with a hammer on a public street. "This is a warning to everyone. Neighbors have rights," they say. ⁶But Meadows **is steaming**. "The police should **go after** criminals, not music lovers," he says.

New idioms and expressions

be fed up (with someone or something)	be tired of; be at the end of your patience (with someone or something)
get along (with someone)*	have a good relationship (with someone)
again and again	many times; repeatedly
turn something down*	make something less loud or less strong
take something away*	remove something
be steaming	be angry
go after someone or something*	try to get or catch someone or something

*phrasal verb (see Lexicon and Appendix D)

2. Listen

Cover the story and look only at these pictures. Listen to the story two or three times.



3. Read the Story

Now read the story carefully. Pay special attention to the idioms so that you're ready for Exercise 4.

4. Complete the Idiom

Cover page 42. Look at each definition below and then complete the idiom.

- a. be angry = be _____
- b. try to get or catch = go _____
- c. have a good relationship with = get _____ with
- d. many times = again and _____
- e. be tired of = be _____ up with

5. Tell the Story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Tell the story using as many idioms as you can.

- a. First, work with the whole class to retell the story.
- b. Then tell the story to a partner or small group.

6. Answer the Questions

About the story

- a. How do Meadows' neighbors feel about his music?
- b. What do they do about it?
- c. What do the authorities tell Meadows?
- d. Does he listen to them?
- e. What do the police finally do with the stereo?
- f. How does Meadows feel about it?
- g. Do you think the police did the right thing?

About you

- h. Do you get along with your neighbors?
- i. Do they do anything that you are fed up with?
- j. Do you like loud music? If so, do people ask you to turn it down?
- k. Are you steaming about something now? If so, what?

7. Write About Yourself

Complete the sentences, writing something true about yourself.

- a. I'm fed up with _____
because _____.
- b. I like to _____
again and again.
- c. I get along well with _____
because _____.

8. Take a Dictation

James Meadows doesn't _____ his neighbors. His neighbors _____ his loud music. They report the problem to the police _____. The police tell Meadows to _____ the volume, but Meadows ignores the warnings. Finally, the police _____ his stereo. They smash it with a hammer on a public street. Meadows _____ . "The police should _____ criminals, not music lovers," he says.

9. Complete the story

a. Read the true story and fill in the blanks with idioms from the box.

- is steaming
- again and again
- going after
- get along with
- is fed up with

Man Arrested for Piano Playing

ORONO, ME, USA Robert Noland doesn't (1) _____ his neighbor. Noland has a Master's degree in piano, and he plays concerts all over the U.S. and Europe. When he is at home, he practices the piano a lot. Sometimes he plays the same music (2) _____. But his neighbor, Mary Lou Dall, (3) _____ the noise.



One day Noland is practicing the piano. It's very hot and his windows are open. Two police officers appear at his door. They tell Noland that Mary Lou Dall has called them about his loud music. "You have to stop playing or shut the windows," they say.

Noland ignores the warning. He **keeps on*** playing the piano with the windows open. The police return and arrest him. Noland is waiting to go to court, and he (4) _____. "Why are the police (5) _____ me? I'm not drunk in the middle of the street. I'm only playing the piano!" he says.

* keep on doing something: continue doing something
recycled idiom: at home

b. Read or tell the story to a partner.