

Everyday English

Moans and groans



- 1 Read the complaints in A. Match them to a response in B. Which of the items in the box do they refer to?

a leather jacket texting boots ordering by phone a bookcase an exam a TV series a dishwasher

A	B
1 I could kick myself . As soon as I'd handed it in, I remembered what the answer was.	a No joy! What a pain! Why don't you try phoning them instead?
2 I went away to think about it, and when I went back it'd been sold. I'm gutted! I should have bought it there and then.	b Give me a break . I was in a hurry. Anyway, they're only a bit muddy.
3 I don't believe it! All I get is 'Message failed to send. Try again.' So, I try again and guess what?	c I'm awfully sorry, sir. I'm afraid there's nothing I can do about it. It's out of my hands .
4 These instructions don't make any sense to me at all. If you can follow them, you're a genius.	d I know, it drives me mad – but worse is when they say, 'This call is important to us,' when it obviously isn't.
5 It's not fair . I'd been looking forward to curling up with a box set and then my phone goes and rings!	e That's always so annoying! But do you think you've still passed?
6 How many times do I have to tell you? Take them off <i>before</i> you come into the house!	f That's a shame . Didn't you ask if they had another one in stock?
7 This is beyond a joke . You promised you'd deliver it Tuesday at the latest. Now you're saying next month!	g Well, don't ask me! This flatpack stuff is a nightmare! I had the same trouble with a coffee table.
8 What a waste of time! Ten minutes listening to ghastly music, punctuated by 'All our lines are busy. Thank you for waiting.'	h You didn't have to answer it . Who was it? Anyone interesting?

- 2 9.12 Listen and check your answers. Read them aloud with a partner.
- 3 Read this conversation with your partner. Then choose two more conversations from 1 and continue them.

A I **could kick myself**. As soon as I'd handed it in, I remembered what the answer was.
 B **That's always so annoying!** But do you think you've still passed?
 A Who knows? I always get so nervous taking exams.
 B I'm the same. I never do myself justice.

- 4 What are some of the events in a typical day in your life? For each event think of something to moan about. Take it in turns to *moan* through the day with your partner.

I don't believe it! I forgot to set my alarm again, so I overslept and I was late for work.

What a pain!

- 5 Do you have any moans and groans about anything that is happening at the moment in your country or in the world? Discuss as a class.

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