

- Description** Students read about people who have trouble learning something and offer advice
Lesson link Use this activity after exercise 5
Time 10 minutes
Extra material Print out and photocopy the *You can't teach an old dog new tricks* worksheet for each student
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Instructions

- a** Write the saying 'You can't teach an old dog new tricks' on the board. Elicit from class what it means (it means 'you cannot teach an older person something new'). Ask SS if they think it is true.
- b** Place SS in groups of three. Give each student a copy of the *You can't teach an old dog new tricks* worksheet. SS need to read the texts and choose the correct *-ed / -ing* adjectives to complete them. When SS have finished, check answers as a class.
- c** Now ask SS in their groups to give some advice for each person they read about.
- d** Feed back as a class. Find out from SS what they think is the best advice for each person.

Answers

- 1 interested
- 2 exciting
- 3 embarrassed
- 4 embarrassed
- 5 terrifying
- 6 disappointed
- 7 frustrating
- 8 depressed
- 9 boring

You can't teach an old dog new tricks

Markus Jaeger, 45

I have lived all my life in Thur, in Switzerland. When I go to other countries, people can't believe that I am from Switzerland and I can't ski. The problem was that my parents weren't ¹**interesting / interested** in skiing and I never learned. Now my sons, who are six and five, see skiing on TV and they think it's really ²**exciting / excited**: they want to try it. I want to learn too but I feel ³**embarrassing / embarrassed**. I want to start skiing, but how can I learn?

Cathy Street, 24

All my life I have wanted to dance. But the problem was that I was always too ⁴**embarrassing / embarrassed** to get up and dance in front of other people. I was very nervous as a teenager and dancing in front of other people was ⁵**terrifying / terrified**. But now I have a boyfriend from Cuba and he is a very good dancer. He always asks me to go out dancing and he's always ⁶**disappointed / disappointing** when I say no. What should I do?

Paula Ruiz, 34

When I was younger I never learned to play a musical instrument but this year I made a decision. I started to learn the guitar. The problem is that I haven't got money for guitar lessons so I am teaching myself with a book and the Internet. But learning the guitar is so ⁷**frustrating / frustrated**! I learn something and then I forget it. Some days I can't play the guitar at all and I get ⁸**depressing / depressed**. The other problem is that the music I play at the moment is really ⁹**boring / bored** because I can only play very basic songs. How can I get better?