

Sport and Ethics

Social issues survey:

- 1. What would be the first change you would make if you became Prime Minister of the country?
.....
- 2. What new facility would you like to see in the town?
.....
- 3. Do you try to eat organic food and avoid genetically modified food? Why?
.....
- 4. What is your favourite mode of transport? Why?
.....
- 5. What do you do to be eco-friendly, e.g. recycle paper, glass etc.?
.....
- 6. Which of these do you think are the main problems for the future of the world – poverty, famine, unemployment, war, disease, pollution, overpopulation, global warming, shortage of natural resources?
.....

- complete the survey and discuss your answers in groups
- which of the questions do you find particularly controversial?

Sport issues

- suggest any ethical issues in sport that you can think of

GAMBLING

You will hear a conversation about gambling. Match these opinions to the person who expresses them. There are two opinions which you do not need to use. The first speaker is Amanda.

- 1. Betting on horses requires skill and knowledge.
- 2. There is nothing wrong with buying a lottery ticket. Amanda
- 3. Sports should be enjoyed for their own sake.
- 4. Gambling is like a drug.
- 5. Gambling provides harmless enjoyment. Tony
- 6. The national Lottery gives a lot of money to good causes.
- 7. Horse racing is exciting if you have put money on a horse.
- 8. Gamblers’ wives and children suffer. Debbie
- 9. No one goes to the cinema any more.

Listen to the conversation again and notice how the speakers interrupt each other politely. Tick the expressions they used.

I’m sorry to interrupt. By the way... Could I just say something? Yes, but...
 Just a minute. I’m sorry but... I see what you mean but... That reminds me...

(Adapted from Jones, L.: *New Progress to First Certificate*, Cambridge University Press, 1997, U 4.3)

Should celebrities be responsible for the products they endorse?

If a celebrity endorses a product, should he or she be held responsible for how it is made? Some say yes. Others say no. What do you think?

Imagine you are a famous basketball player. You play on a championship team, you have got lots of fans, and, best of all, someone is paying you \$10 million to put your name on a pair of sneakers. Then one day you find out the shoes you endorse are made by child labourers. How would you feel? Would you feel responsible?

A couple of years ago Michael Jordan and Kathy Lee Gifford faced this very problem. Some of Gifford's line of clothes were made by Honduran girls paid just 31cents an hour. And, according to news reports, some sneakers that have Jordan's name on them were made by ten-year-old children in Indonesia.

Many people are angry with Gifford and Jordan for being involved with companies that exploit children. Others are not upset. They say that celebrities are paid to endorse just the product – not the way it is made.

What do you think?

Example of a persuasive letter to a newspaper. English gap fill (cloze) exercise. Improve your grammar and vocabulary skills:

Dear Sir,

As someone who has travelled throughout Asia 1) _____ business 2) _____ holiday I would like 3) _____ give my opinion 4) _____ its environmental impact. Having visited Indonesia, Thailand 5) _____ Malaysia I understand that tourism can bring money 6) _____ developing countries. However, this money often goes into 7) _____ pockets of foreign investors, 8) _____ only rarely benefits local people. Multinational hotel chains also have little regard for 9) _____ surrounding wildlife when they build new resorts. This can cause many problems.

In view of these facts we, as tourists, can directly affect these countries 10) _____ 11) _____ positive way if we 12) _____ thoughtful. When we visit these countries we can visit restaurants, bars 13) _____ even hotels that 14) _____ owned 15) _____ local people. In addition, we can refuse 16) _____ give luxury resorts our patronage 17) _____ therefore prevent them from becoming even larger. Most importantly we should check that any tours or excursions we take have minimal effect 18) _____ 19) _____ natural surroundings. Finally, we can even attempt 20) _____ change 21) _____ behaviour of other tourists 22) _____ sharing our opinions.

If we follow these simple steps we can be sure that our pleasure is not causing any harm 23) _____ people or places that we visit.