

The Road Less Travelled

by Lindsay Clandfield with Jo Budden

Episode 4: The argument

Worksheet

The story so far

Katie has decided to quit her job in England and go to visit her cousin Sal in the United States. Things aren't very good between Katie and Mark, her boyfriend. She thinks it's time to take a break from the relationship.



Listening

1. Listen to Katie's conversation with Mark and answer the questions.

1. Why does Katie say Mark is *selfish*?
2. Who leaves at the end?

2. Listen again and choose the correct answer.

1. ... turns off the TV.
a) Katie b) Mark c) Chris
2. Katie says she's going to California for ...
a) the rest of her life b) a week c) a couple of months
3. Katie says that Mark only thinks about his interests, his life and ...
a) Katie b) football c) his friends
4. Mark says that Katie should...
a) go home to her mother b) go to work c) go to the United States
5. Katie's plane leaves...
a) next week b) tomorrow c) in a couple of months
6. Mark thinks Katie is making...
a) a big mistake b) a good decision c) a difficult decision

Worksheet

Language focus: *too* and *very*

3. Look at this sentence from the episode. Which is closest in meaning, a) or b)?

"I'm too tired for this."

- a) I'm tired, but I can listen to this.
- b) I'm tired and I can't listen to this.



Too and *very* are different. *Too* means more than necessary, or more than we want. *Too* goes with adjectives, but not with adjectives and nouns, e.g.

It's very big. ✓

It's too big. ✓

A very big mistake. ✓

A too big mistake. X

4. Choose the best word to complete the sentences.

1. This coffee is *too/very* hot. I can't drink it.
2. This coffee is *too/very* hot, but I can drink it.
3. That was a *too/very* difficult test.
4. Mark can't understand Katie. He's *too/very* selfish.
5. It's *too/very* nice today, we can go outside.
6. It's a *too/very* difficult decision.

Discussion

5. Answer the questions.

- Is Katie making the right choice?
- In your experience are men usually more selfish in relationships than women?
- What do you think will happen next?

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Transcript

KATIE: Could you please turn the TV off? I have something to say.

MARK: Can it wait? It's just that the football results are coming soon...

KATIE: No it can't wait!

MARK: Katie, I hate it when you do that.

KATIE: Well, this is very important and I can't do it with the TV on!

MARK: So...?

KATIE: I'm going to America. To California, to visit my cousin Sal.

MARK: California? When? For how long?

KATIE: For a couple of months, maybe more.

MARK: What?! What about your job?

KATIE: I quit my job this morning.

MARK: Wait a minute. Are you saying you actually planned this?

KATIE: I wanted to tell you a couple of days ago but I couldn't. I'm sorry, but I need a change. I'm not happy here.

MARK: What do you mean? What's wrong with your life here? What about us?

KATIE: This isn't easy for me to say Mark but I think we're part of the problem. There is no "us". It's always you. Your interests. Your life. Your friends.

MARK: That's not true!

KATIE: Yes, it is true Mark. You're too selfish to realise it.

MARK: Katie, I've worked all day today. I'm too tired for this.

KATIE: I worked all day too, you know. You see? You're being selfish again.

MARK: You know what? Forget it. Go home to your mum and we can talk tomorrow.

KATIE: My plane leaves tomorrow.

MARK: I can't believe this.

KATIE: Mark, I...

MARK: Ok. Fine. Fine. Get out. Goodbye.

KATIE: Goodbye Mark.

MARK: You're making a big mistake Katie! A VERY BIG mistake!



Answers

Listening

1. Because he only thinks of himself, his friends, his life and his interests.
 2. Katie.
- 1) a 2) c) 3) c) 4) a) 5) b) 6) a)
- a) "I'm too tired for this."
 - b) I'm tired and I can't listen to this.
- Choose the best word to complete the sentences.
 1. too
 2. very
 3. very
 4. too
 5. very
 6. very

