

V = Val R = Rosie J = James Ja = Jane E = Eddie D = Dawn

V: Hi. I live in a block of flats and I know a few of my neighbours really well – we like similar things so we socialise quite a lot. Today, I'm going to ask people about their neighbours. How well do you know your neighbours?

R: I know my neighbours quite well. I moved in a year ago and I live in the middle flat, and, it's a house that's broken into three flats. The guys upstairs moved in a year ago as well and the guys downstairs have been there a few years, but we all have a communal garden so we get to use that space together.

J: It varies enormously. One or two really quite well; some very close, I don't even know what they look like. And that is very typical of this area – I live just round the corner from here, very typical of inner city, urban London.

Ja: Virtually not at all. I've a, I live in a flat and I moved into the flat about six months ago.

E: Yeah, I know them quite well, but I don't, some I get on with and some I don't: some I want to get on with and some I don't want to get on with.

D: Um, not at all. I've never even seen them. No, I don't know them at all, quite honestly.

V: What makes a good neighbour?

R: A good neighbour is someone that you can trust, that you could leave your key with, that you could ask to water your plants or feed your cat.

Ja: I think what makes a good neighbour is someone who looks out for you, and you look out for them as well.

J: Knowing when to interfere and not to interfere; being friendly at the right times but not being intrusive.

D: A good neighbour would be someone who's considerate; who always keeps in mind that they do have neighbours – whether it be noise or trash, just keeping up their property, making it a nice place that people will want to come home to.

- E:** Someone who you can trust and who doesn't cause you any grief.
- V:** What about a bad neighbour?
- R:** A bad neighbour is someone that forgets that you exist as well, and has loud music until 6a.m.
- J:** Not respecting privacy, intruding; not understanding what your neighbour wants and not just in that sense but in the sense of not participating, not doing things when a neighbour needs help.
- D:** Someone who is not considerate, who, whether it's a lot of noise or a lot of trash, doesn't upkeep their property, who's not really friendly.
- V:** Tell me about the best or worst neighbour you've ever had.
- D:** She was a lady who lived above me and she was very quiet, very nice. She would oftentimes come and, kinda, check on me, see if I'm OK, so we'd kind of 'chit-chat' so I got to know her pretty well, which was pretty nice.
- Ja:** The worst neighbour I've ever had, lived next door to me in the last house I was in and he was just very noisy all the time, day, day and night, you were constantly, constantly aware of him.
- J:** One night I was, about 8 o'clock, I heard a noise outside and I opened the windows and a loud voice said, "Get down, crouch down." And it was clearly a policeman, and I had to stay crouched down and in the garden at the back three policemen shot in and shot over the wall and it turned out that I was living next to the 'number 2' in the main criminal gang in North London – and they were arrested and taken away.