

A Nicole

You're Nicole and you went out with Steve for two years. About six months ago you **mutually** agreed to split up but you have kept in touch. Recently, you've discussed the possibility of getting back together again. You've agreed to meet to talk through the reasons why you broke up, and to see whether solutions can be found to make a reconciliation possible.

**1 His appearance**

When you first started going out, Steve always looked fantastic. Over the two years you were together, you felt he'd started to let himself go, e.g. he stopped going to the gym with you, put on a lot of weight, and started to wear any old thing – this wasn't the man you first fell in love with!

2 Helping in the house

You know that your way of doing things is the best way. It used to drive you mad when Steve did things his way (the wrong way), e.g. when he was preparing a meal or

doing the washing up. So, when you saw him doing things incorrectly, you'd try and put him right. Steve used to get very annoyed by this, but you can't see why. It's your area of expertise after all.

3 Your friend Max

One of the main reasons why you split up was because Steve was jealous of your friendship with Max – your ex-partner. Although you get on really well with Max and he's one of your closest friends, you certainly don't have any romantic feelings for him any more. You meet Max about once a month for a drink, or to see a film (you and Max have the same taste in cinema, unlike Steve).

4 The spoilt child

When you met Steve he told you that he had a nine-year-old daughter (Nina) from his previous marriage. You didn't see that as a problem because you like children. He has Nina for a weekend once a fortnight. You think Nina is immensely spoilt, manipulative, and badly-behaved. Initially, you spent time as a threesome, but you felt this wasn't working so you used to go away with friends for the weekends when Steve had Nina.

Talk to Steve about these problems and try to find a way forward. Remember you want to get back together with him, so try to keep calm and don't lose your temper!

B Steve

You're Steve and you went out with Nicole for two years. About six months ago you **mutually** agreed to split up, but you have kept in touch. Recently, you've discussed the possibility of getting back together again. You've agreed to meet to talk through the reasons why you broke up to see whether solutions can be found to make a reconciliation possible.

**1 Appearance**

You think that when you're in a relationship, you need to be able to be yourself, and that includes your appearance, but Nicole is always going on about the clothes you wear and the fact that you aren't in such good shape as you used to be. Nicole still looks great, but you think she is rather obsessed with the gym, and that she spends a fortune on clothes.

2 Unwanted advice

You've managed to survive perfectly well all these years cooking and cleaning in your own way. One of the reasons

you split up with Nicole was because she was always telling you a 'better' way of doing things (i.e. her way) when you hadn't asked her for advice, and it used to really get on your nerves.

3 Her ex

Nicole's ex-boyfriend is called Max. They often go out to the cinema, talk on the phone, and have a drink together. You don't understand why she still needs him in her life. You're not jealous of Max, it's just that you don't like him and you really don't think it's healthy for Nicole to stay in touch with him.

4 Your daughter

You have a nine-year-old daughter (Nina) from a previous relationship who you have every other weekend. Nina can be a bit difficult at times, and you know that you do tend to spoil her and need to be stricter – but that's only because you see her so little. You're aware that Nicole didn't get on with Nina, but you don't think she is very good with children and she didn't really give Nina a chance. She just started going off with friends when Nina was around. It is really important for you that Nina and Nicole get on.

Talk to Nicole about these problems and try to find a way forward. Remember you want to get back together with her so try to keep calm and don't lose your temper!