

A Read these posts on an online problem page and choose the correct verb forms.



**Lucia,
Florence**

I've got a teenage son and all he does, day in, day out, is play computer games. He gets completely absorbed in them and won't do anything else from dusk to dawn. If he was doing something useful with the computer, I ¹*will / would* understand, but all these games are just a waste of his time. I wish I ²*didn't buy / hadn't bought* him that computer!



**Brad,
London**

I got a great job offer to work in London. I talked it over with my wife and I decided that I should take it, so we moved to the capital. Things were all right at first but then my wife started complaining, and now she says she hates London and wants to move back to where we used to live. I said that I ³*wouldn't have taken / hadn't taken* the job if I'd known how unhappy she would be. She said she'd kept quiet because she was worried she'd spoil things for me and my career. She ⁴*should / would* have told me if she was unsure, but she didn't and now I don't know what to do.



**Jin Ho,
Seoul**

A year ago we won a large cash prize in a lottery. It was the worst thing that has ever happened to us. We ought to ⁵*take / have taken* proper financial advice but we wasted a lot of money on a mansion, lost our real friends and met people who were only really interested in our money. I ⁶*could / would* much rather be back in my old house than living next to these wealthy neighbours who resent us and where we come from. ⁷*If only / Only if* we hadn't won the money!



**Callum,
Lanzarote**

My wife and I retired recently and moved abroad. Personally, I ⁸*would have liked / had liked* to have stayed in Scotland but my wife decided it was time we ⁹*left / leave* that climate for somewhere warm and sunny instead. The problem is that we do feel quite isolated here especially in the off-season when all the British tourists have gone home. Language is a problem, so it's pretty hard to socialise. I wish I ¹⁰*spoke / had spoken* decent Spanish. Perhaps if we ¹¹*tried / will try* harder, we would somehow feel more at home.



**Stefanie,
Frankfurt**

My best friend, Anna, has got a new boyfriend, Thomas, who is really bad news for her. Thomas is good-looking enough but he lies to Anna all the time about where he's been and who he's been with. I ¹²*should have warned / had to warn* Anna from the start because I know his ex-girlfriend, who basically wishes Thomas ¹³*lives / lived* on the other side of the world. I tried to talk to Anna about this the other day but I ¹⁴*couldn't / shouldn't* have bothered because she got all defensive about him.

B  Work in groups. Criticise each person constructively for what they did / didn't do and give them advice.