A2-B1 English Worksheet

Sore Losers: Competition, Anger and Learning to Lose

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Article

Board games should be enjoyable, but one family's games have become uncomfortable. A Guardian reader describes her sister-in-law, who is almost 40 and gets angry when she loses. She throws game pieces aside or leaves the room. The reader is worried that this childish behaviour could damage relationships.

When the woman gets upset, relatives laugh to reduce the tension. Their reactions may make her behaviour seem acceptable. Although the reader likes her sister-in-law, she feels uneasy and wonders whether she acts similarly outside games.

The columnist's advice is to stop pretending the situation is funny. People can show they are unhappy without starting an argument. An honest conversation later may be more useful than confronting someone during an outburst. Losing is disappointing, but everyone should treat other people with respect.

True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

No.	Statement	T / F
1	A family member becomes angry after losing board games.	
2	The reader says she dislikes her sister-in-law in general.	
3	The relatives openly criticise the woman during every game.	
4	The reader wonders whether the woman reacts badly outside games too.	
5	Laughing at the outbursts might make them seem acceptable.	
6	The columnist recommends arguing with the woman while she is furious.	
7	A later, honest conversation is presented as a possible solution.	
8	The article suggests that losing a game excuses disrespectful behaviour.	

Synonym Match

Match each word (1-10) to a synonym (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. enjoyable	A. immature
2. uncomfortable	B. responses
3. worried	C. truthful
4. childish	D. uneasy
5. behaviour	E. guidance
6. reactions	F. dispute
7. tension	G. pleasant
8. advice	H. conduct
9. honest	I. concerned
10. argument	J. strain

Use the New Language

Choose 5 words from Synonym Match and write your own sentences.

No.	Your sentence
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Discussion Questions

Student A	Student B
1. Which board games do you enjoy playing with family or friends?	1. Should adults always control their anger during games?
2. Were you competitive when you were at school?	2. Can too much competition damage a friendship?
3. Can you remember a game you were disappointed to lose?	3. Is it better to let young children win sometimes?
4. What do you usually say to the winner after a match?	4. Should someone apologise after spoiling a game for others?
5. Have you played a game with someone who became angry?	5. When does joking about a player's mistakes become unkind?
6. Do you prefer team games or games where one person wins?	6. Do schools focus too much on winning competitions?
7. Which sport would you like to learn or improve at?	7. How can families deal with someone who often gets angry?
8. Has anyone ever taught you to accept losing calmly?	8. Is learning to lose an important skill outside sport?

Answer Key

True/False
1=T, 2=F, 3=F, 4=T, 5=T, 6=F, 7=T, 8=F

Synonym Match
1=G, 2=D, 3=I, 4=A, 5=H, 6=B, 7=J, 8=E, 9=C, 10=F

Example Sentences With the Words

No.	Example sentence
1	The children had an enjoyable afternoon playing cards.
2	She felt uncomfortable when her friend shouted.
3	He was worried about upsetting the other players.
4	Throwing the dice onto the floor was childish.
5	The coach praised the team for their good behaviour.
6	The players' reactions surprised everyone in the room.
7	A friendly joke helped to reduce the tension.
8	My teacher gave me useful advice after the game.
9	Please be honest about how you felt when you lost.
10	The evening ended without an argument.