

Case Studies

1. The basketball game is tied with 20 seconds to go. You intercept a wild pass and barrel down the court—wide open. You toss your lay-up, only to hear groans from the stands: The ball has hit the backboard so hard, it ends up at half court. The story of your life. You feel like quitting the team
2. Your family is new to the United States. Although you studied English in your own country, and did quite well at it, it's all so different here. Everyone speaks so fast and with words you don't even know. It's hard to follow the teachers at school, and even harder to keep up with what the kids are saying. Every day, you go home with a headache. It's so frustrating!
3. You have word problems for math homework. Some of them are okay, but there are a couple where you don't even know where to start. You're not really sure what the questions are, let alone the answers. You've already spent too much time on the assignment anyway, and you still have other homework to do. What can you do?
4. You've landed a major role in the school play, and you're thrilled. The problem is that you must sing a song—ALL BY YOURSELF—in front of the whole school. You're so scared, you wish you weren't in the play at all. Maybe you really should go out and "break a leg."
5. Your science teacher has given the class an exciting project: to design a working pendulum. You have a great idea, but it keeps coming out all wrong. You feel like just throwing it all away
6. The older kids in your neighborhood all play roller hockey at the school. You've been dying to play, so your parents give you an awesome pair of rollerblades for your birthday. You throw on the blades and realize . . . you can barely stand up, let alone wield a hockey stick! Forget it. You'll never be able to play with those kids.
7. Your English teacher has assigned a short story to write and it's due this Friday. Every time you sit down to write, your mind's a blank. You keep hoping that, somehow, a great idea will magically appear before Friday. So far this hasn't happened
8. You've been taking dance lessons for eight years. You've worked hard, progressing steadily through the classes at your dance school. Finally, your teacher encourages you to try out for a professional production, and you're given a tiny part in the chorus. You are incredibly disappointed. Rehearsals and performances will be time-consuming. What should you do?