

Ten Role–Play Situations for Effective Problem Solving

1. A husband, the primary wage earner in the relationship, is married to a trained professional, who has been home for the last five years taking care of their two young children. The husband announces to the wife that since he has received only a 3% raise in each of the last three years, there is a need for more money to come into the household in order for them to keep their heads above water, to meet their needs, bills, etc.
2. A child wants her father to spend more time with her at home. It seems that Dad has a new job that requires him to spend many evening hours on the road and at the office.
3. A boss complains that her employee has lost that zest or zing he once brought to the job. The employee agrees that things are certainly different from when he was first hired.
4. A husband wants his wife to make a renewed commitment to the marriage by going through an anniversary renewal of their marriage vows. The wife seems put off by such a request saying I am here, aren't I? That's commitment, isn't it?
5. A woman finds some foreign strands of long, red hair on her boyfriend's suit coat as she is hanging it up in the closet. The boyfriend walks in and begins complaining about how obsessive she is when it comes to things, asking; why does she always have to hang his clothes up, saying he can do it himself.
6. Two friends had an argument last night when they were visiting a third friend. They have not spoken since. The issue was the same old thing: one nagging about the other's drinking.
7. A wife announces to her husband that she desires to go back to graduate school to get a doctorate in her field. The husband announces at the same time his intention to quit his job and open his own business.
8. A worker is sensitive when it comes to smoking. He is allergic or, at least, physically affected by smoking. The other worker is a chain smoker who finds it difficult to quit and is defensive about all the antismoking legislation.
9. A woman cringes and complains whenever her male friend drives the car because he speeds. The man cannot relax when the woman drives because she is overly cautious and he is sure they will get into an accident.
10. A support group member resents putting in so much time on his sessions. He finds that he is getting behind in his work because of the support group activities. He confides his concern to a fellow support group member.