

Vocabulary

Parts of Society: individual / citizen / family / neighbourhood / community / district / city council / mayor / region / state / government / senate / senator / parliament / member of parliament (MP) / prime minister / president / nation

Problems of Society: poverty / homelessness / unemployment / domestic abuse / child abuse / terrorism / intolerance / racism / discrimination / sexism / corruption / obesity / drug abuse / illiteracy / oppression / inequality / lack of (access to) education/health care/opportunities / propaganda / fake news

Public Services: public transport / water supply / power/electricity / waste disposal / education / health care / public health insurance / police / firemen/firefighters / post offices / courts / military / public libraries / social services (welfare, public housing)

Private Services: shops / restaurants / banks / hotels / hairdressers / internet access / private health care / private health/car/home insurance / news media / (mobile) phone services / car repair / electricians / plumbers / builders / lawyers / taxis

Verbs: to vote (for) / to make/pass/peel a law / to put money/time into sth / to discriminate (against) / to (physically/emotionally) abuse sb / to enforce (the law/the rules) / to visit/go to (the library/post

office) / to pay (rent/bills/taxes) / to call (the police/an ambulance) / to hire (a lawyer)

Pair Discussion

With a friend, discuss the things you like and dislike about your country. Which public services are you happy with? Which ones are you unhappy with? What problems does your society have? Come up with a list of things you would like to be changed, and some suggestions for how to change them.

* You can find a sample dialogue on the March 2018 CD.

Language for Expressing Wishes

I wish people were... / If only people were...

I'd like / I want sth to be... / I wish sth was...

If I had a lot of money / If I were a politician / If I were in charge, I would...

I wish they would change the law so that / make a law that said...

Things would be/get better if they would just...

Language Point

Because many people have different opinions on society and politics, conversations can easily become arguments. To help avoid this you can start sentences with phrases like "In my opinion...", "From my point of view...", "The way I see it..." or "In my experience..."

Personal Questions

- What is the government in your country like? "We have... a parliament / a president... People vote for... a political party... Representatives serve for... years. There is an election every... two / four years..."
- Have you ever had a bad experience with a public service (post office, electricity company, etc.)? Describe it. "The post office once lost... There was a power cut / broken water pipe in... I went to the hospital and had to wait a long time..."
- Which societal problems do you think are most important in your country/community? How would you like things to be different? "In my opinion... / There is a big problem with... homelessness / poverty / corruption / discrimination... I wish politicians would pass laws to deal with... I would like the police to..."
- What would you change about your country if you were in charge? "If I were in charge, I would put more money into... / change the laws about... / make/pass new laws to... / repeal the law that says... / try to stop... / focus on saving/using..."

