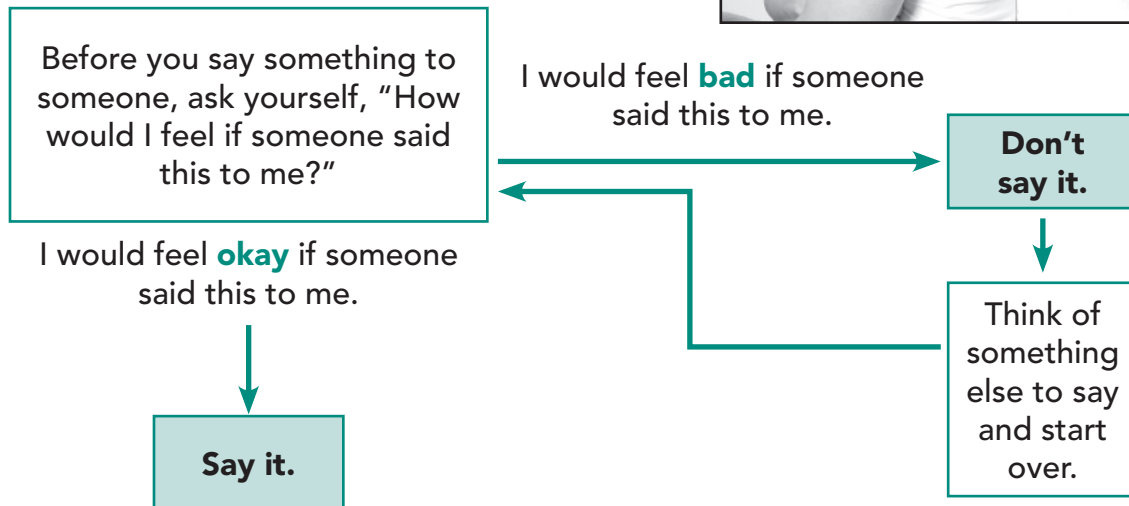


# Getting Along with Others

Getting along with people isn't always easy. Everyone is an individual. It's tough to know exactly what makes each person happy or upset.

The best way to know whether you should say or do something is to think about how you would feel in that situation. Follow these steps:



Understanding how someone else would feel in a situation is called *empathy*. When we use empathy, we can make better decisions about how to act. Using empathy will help you decide what to do and say to avoid disagreements and problems with others.

Tell how you would feel in each situation.

1. You spent a lot of time getting your outfit together for a party. When you get to the party, you find out you're dressed a lot nicer than everyone else. Someone asks, "Why are you all dressed up? Who are you trying to impress?"
2. Your English teacher stops you after class and says, "I didn't want to tell you this in front of everyone, but the story you wrote about your grandfather was really touching. It almost had me in tears. You have a real talent for writing."
3. During basketball practice, the coach blows his whistle and yells at you, "Pass the ball! Run the plays I give you or you'll be watching instead of playing."

## Asking Questions 3

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Good questions help you get information about other people. People like to share information about themselves. Avoid arguing questions. An arguing question is one in which you try to push your opinion on someone rather than trying to get information from them.

**Good Questions =  
Getting Information**

**Arguing Questions =  
Pushing Your Opinion**

**Good question: "What subject is easiest for you?"**

**Arguing question: "I think math is super easy, don't you?"**

Rewrite each arguing question into a question to get information.  
(Hint: Begin your questions with *What*, *Why* or *How*.)

1. Don't you think chocolate cake is way better than white cake?

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2. I think MTV2 is the best channel on TV, don't you?

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3. Don't you think I did a great job reading that poem in class?

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4. They should let people into the game who don't wear school colors, shouldn't they?

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5. Don't you think the kids in our science class who get bad grades just don't try hard enough?

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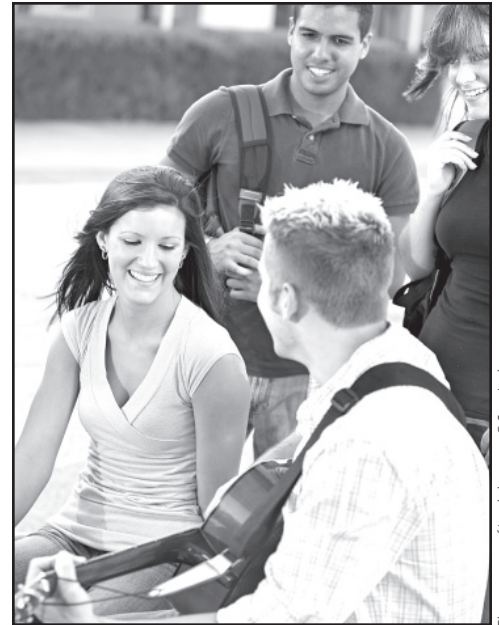
## Getting-Along Stories 3

Read the story and answer the questions.

Tanner always has his guitar with him. He really likes to play and sing in front of other people.

Even though Tanner likes to play for an audience, he only knows a couple of songs and he doesn't play them very well. Everyone thinks Tanner is a good guy. His friends don't want to hurt his feelings, but they're getting tired of listening to his guitar playing all the time.

A friend says to you, "Tanner really likes you. Why don't you ask him to take it easy with the guitar playing? He'll listen to you. If he doesn't knock it off, someone is going to say something nasty to him and hurt his feelings."



1. Which statements are true?

- a. Tanner is not very popular.
- b. Tanner is not a good guitar player.
- c. Most people like Tanner.

2. What would be the best thing to say to Tanner without hurting his feelings?

- a. "Maybe you should learn to play a different instrument. The guitar gets kind of boring after a while."
- b. "It's cool that you like to play the guitar, Tanner, but maybe you should just talk to your friends sometimes instead of playing all the time."
- c. "Tanner, you're not a very good guitar player. You're probably a worse singer. People are tired of listening to you."

3. What might happen if you don't say anything to Tanner and he keeps playing in front of people?

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