



Problem: being polite to an old friend

Hannah and Lucas have been friends since the first grade. Today is Hannah's birthday, and she brought cupcakes to share with her classmates. Lucas doesn't care for the dessert. When Hannah sees Lucas's face, she assumes he's joking and asks if he'd like a second cupcake.

Look at Lucas's face and body posture. Do you think he likes the cupcake? Why? *(no; eyes closed, face scrunched up)*

What might Hannah think as she looks at Lucas's facial expression? *(He's joking, He doesn't like the cupcake, He thinks it tastes bad.)*

Why would Hannah assume that Lucas is joking? *(been friends a long time, joke with each other a lot, knows Lucas likes sweets)*

Hannah asks Lucas if he likes the cupcake. The cupcake has a lemony flavor that Lucas doesn't like, but he doesn't want to hurt Hannah's feelings. How should he respond? *(You always bring great treats; It tastes just like lemonade; It's good, but a little sweet for me.)*



Problem: identifying a hierarchy of tasks to accomplish in order of urgency or importance

As Nathan is getting the book he needs for class from his locker, some of his papers fall on the floor. He tries to put the book in his book bag, but the zipper is stuck. Then Nathan hears the class bell ring.

Tell me which problem Nathan needs to address first, second, and last. Explain your choices.

- a Nathan hears the bell ring and knows he needs to get to class quickly.
- b Papers have spilled from Nathan's locker and are scattered on the floor.
- c. The zipper on Nathan's book bag is stuck.

Suggested Sequence: b, a, c (Answers may vary according to student's explanations.)



Problem: deciding when and how to ask for clarification

Lucas has PE with his best friend Nathan every day. Today, Nathan is trying to tell Lucas about his weekend, but Lucas is having trouble hearing him because it's noisy in the gymnasium.

What will Lucas say to Nathan? *(It's noisy in here. I can't hear/understand what you're saying.)*

Is PE class the best place to have a conversation? Why? *(no; It's too loud in the gymnasium.)*

When would be a good time for Nathan and Lucas to talk? *(between classes, at lunch, after school)*

What's the purpose of the above interaction?

- a. initiating a question to gain more information
- b. *repairing a communication breakdown*
- c. contingent commenting



Present

Problem: not turning in homework assignments

Lucas doesn't have his book report ready for Ms. Miller.

Why doesn't he have his book report completed? *(spent his homework time doing something else, forgot to do it, put off doing it and then didn't have time to finish it)*

How do you think he'll explain it to Ms. Miller? *(I don't have it ready. I'm sorry. Can I have an extension?)*

What could Lucas have done to get his assignment done on time? *(made time to do his homework, scheduled his time)*

Lucas needs help getting organized to write his report. Put these steps in order:

- write the book report (3)
- read the book (1)
- make an outline of the story (2)
- proofread the report (4)