# Everyday minor problems

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

PRE-INTERMEDIATE | A2-B1

**Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

## 1 Match each everyday problem with its meaning.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 a leaking pipe | ____ | a water cannot run away |
| 2 a cracked pot | ____ | b a small piece is missing from the edge |
| 3 a chipped cup | ____ | c electricity has stopped |
| 4 dead batteries | ____ | d water is escaping |
| 5 a power cut | ____ | e the device has suddenly stopped responding |
| 6 a loose handle | ____ | f the batteries have no energy |
| 7 a blocked sink | ____ | g it has a line of damage but is still in one piece |
| 8 a crashed computer | ____ | h it may come off when you pull it |

## 2 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

**broke down | came off | crashed | crushed | leaking | power cut | run out | smashed**

**1** The washing machine _____ yesterday, so our clothes are still wet.

**2** The door handle _____ in my hand.

**3** A football _____ the kitchen window.

**4** The batteries have _____; the torch will not work.

**5** There was a _____, so we used candles.

**6** My computer _____ before I saved the file.

**7** The biscuits were _____ at the bottom of my bag.

**8** The bathroom pipe is _____; please turn off the water.

## 3 Choose the correct injury word.

**1** I stepped badly and *twisted / stained* my ankle.

**2** Leo hit his head on a cupboard and got a *bruise / leak*.

**3** Eva caught her foot on a bag and *tripped / chipped*.

**4** I fell and *grazed / crashed* my knee on the path.

**5** She *bumped / blocked* her elbow against the door.

**6** A dark mark on the skin after a knock is a *bruise / crack*.

**7** A small area of broken, red skin is a *graze / dent*.

**8** He lost his balance and *fell down / ran out*.

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## 4 Complete the story with words from the box.

**blocked | bruise | crashed | flat | locked | mislaid | spilt | stain**

It was not a good morning. First, I had **1** _____ my keys and then I accidentally **2** _____ myself out. My bicycle tyre was **3** _____, so I walked to work. On the way, I **4** _____ coffee on my shirt and it left a **5** _____. At the office, my computer **6** _____. When I bent under the desk, I bumped my head and got a **7** _____. Finally, the kitchen sink was **8** _____.

## 5 Read the text. Write T (true) or F (false).

**A small accident in the kitchen**

Mia was carrying two cups when she tripped over a bag. She did not fall, but she spilt tea on the floor and chipped one cup. She put the cup aside so nobody would cut a finger, wiped up the tea and checked the floor for pieces. Her ankle felt slightly sore, so she rested it. Later she replaced the chipped cup and moved the bag away from the doorway. A minor accident became a useful reminder to keep the route clear.

**1** Mia fell to the floor. T / F

**2** She damaged a cup. T / F

**3** She left the tea on the floor. T / F

**4** She checked for broken pieces. T / F

**5** Her ankle felt completely normal. T / F

**6** She removed the trip hazard. T / F

## 6 Match each problem with the sensible first response.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 a leaking pipe | ____ | a stop using it and replace it |
| 2 a chipped glass | ____ | b turn off the water if safe |
| 3 a power cut | ____ | c avoid forcing more water down |
| 4 a blocked sink | ____ | d use a torch and check nearby homes |

## OVER TO YOU

Write **70-90 words** about a day when several small things went wrong. Explain each problem and what the person did next.

[ ] Use at least eight target words. [ ] Keep events in a clear order. [ ] Include safe, sensible responses.

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## ANSWER KEY

### 1 Everyday problems

1 **d** 2 **g** 3 **b** 4 **f** 5 **c** 6 **h** 7 **a** 8 **e**

### 2 Things going wrong

1 **broke down** 2 **came off** 3 **smashed** 4 **run out** 5 **power cut** 6 **crashed** 7 **crushed** 8 **leaking**

### 3 Minor injuries

1 **twisted** 2 **bruise** 3 **tripped** 4 **grazed** 5 **bumped** 6 **bruise** 7 **graze** 8 **fell down**

### 4 A difficult morning

1 **mislaid** 2 **locked** 3 **flat** 4 **spilt** 5 **stain** 6 **crashed** 7 **bruise** 8 **blocked**

### 5 Reading

1 **F** - She did not fall.
2 **T**
3 **F** - She wiped it up.
4 **T**
5 **F** - It felt slightly sore.
6 **T**

### 6 Sensible responses

1 **b** 2 **a** 3 **d** 4 **c**

**Over to you:** Answers will vary. Check vocabulary, sequence and sensible responses.