

I Want a Phone!

by ReadWorks



"I want a phone!" said Myrna.

"I bet you do," said her dad.

"No, but, Dad. You don't understand. I really, really, really want a phone."

"And I really, really, really want a boat. It's not going to happen."

Myrna and her dad were stuck in traffic. To her, it seemed like they were always stuck in traffic. When he took her to school in the morning-traffic. When he picked her up in the afternoon-traffic. Go to the bank, the grocery, a birthday party, and what felt like ten hours of traffic was their reward.

She was bored, because traffic was boring. And when she was bored, she wanted things. Right now, she wanted a phone. She wasn't sure if her dad understood that. She would have to tell him again.

"I. Want. A. Phone."

"N. O."

"What if I was stuck in a cave?"

"What?" asked her dad, trying not to laugh.

"What if I had a kitten, and the kitten ran away, and I had to run after it. What if the kitten ran into a cave, and I ran after the kitten, and in the cave there was a bear, and the bear trapped me, and-"

"And then you were stuck in the cave." Myrna nodded the way she did when she won an argument, but her dad wasn't through fighting. "Is this a momma bear? I hear they're the fiercest."

"Yes. It's a momma bear, and she's very upset, and she's going to eat me unless I have a phone to call for help."

"If it's a momma bear, then you can use her phone. Everyone knows that moms always carry phones."

Dad was laughing as he said this. Myrna didn't think it was very funny. She slammed her hand down on the glove compartment as hard as she could, which wasn't very hard. Now she was angry.

"If I had a phone, I could play games on it!"

"If I had a boat, I could eat steaks on it. That doesn't mean I'm getting one."

"No, but I mean..." Myrna spluttered. When she was very angry, she spluttered. It was embarrassing. "If I could play games, I wouldn't be so bored when we were in traffic. I wouldn't bother you!"

"I don't mind being bothered. I like talking to you."

"Then I won't say anything at all!"

Dad smiled quietly to himself. "I'm going to call Mom to let her know we'll be late." He reached into his pocket. "Oh, heck. My battery's dead."

"You know...if I had a phone, I could call Mom," said Myrna.

"Don't even."

Myrna grinned. She wasn't getting a phone, but she knew she was right, and that was almost as good.

argument

ar · gu · ment

Definition

noun

1. an angry discussion by people who disagree.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris had an argument about money.

Advanced Definition

noun

1. a discussion in which there is disagreement along with presentation of various sides of an issue.

The class was divided in the argument over the primary cause of the war.

2. a heated discussion; verbal quarrel.

The husband and wife had had an argument and now refused to speak to each other.

3. a reason in favor of or against something.

Her argument in favor of expanding the physical education program was convincing.

4. a series of steps in reasoning.

You've presented a very clear argument in this essay, and I cannot find any flaws in your reasoning.

5. the main topic or theme, as of a written work.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. The winner wins the game and the **argument**.
2. They know that "winning an **argument**" isn't always worth it.
3. Jason is my best friend, but we're having an **argument**.
4. It started with an **argument** over who got to be which piece.
5. If the issue isn't important to you, let your friend "win" the **argument**.
6. Another way would be if the countries take their **argument** to the United Nations.
7. They try to block the prosecution's **argument** and prove that the person is innocent.
8. They were warriors about to leap at each other's throats and settle their **argument** with violence.
9. While talking to your friend on the phone, you tell him about an **argument** you just had with your mother.

bored

bored

Definition

adjective

1. feeling tired because of having to do something that is not interesting.

I felt bored during the long drive.

Advanced Definition

adjective

1. finding something tedious or dull; uninterested.

I was bored with the magazine and put it back with the others.

The class is too elementary for her, so she gets bored.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Brendan played with the yo-yo a little bit. Then he got **bored**. He stuck it in his pocket.
2. Rosie was at the park with her family watching the fireworks. Rosie was **bored**. Each firework was the same.
3. Her skin was tan and eyes were dark brown, like Maria's, but her dirty blonde hair made Maria feel **bored** of her plain, black hair.
4. Go to the bank, the grocery, a birthday party, and what felt like ten hours of traffic was their reward. She was **bored**, because traffic was boring.
5. Sometimes, though, Roger got **bored**. He did the same things every day. He saw the same things every day. That's why he got excited when he found the sparkly rock.
6. Matt rode his scooter some more. Then he got **bored**. He looked around the park. Evan was playing with a toy plane. "Hey Evan," Matt said. "Can I try your plane?"
7. Kojo laughed. "Ha! Just kidding," he said. Kojo's Aunt Ama scolded him. "Nobody likes a liar, Kojo." Kojo felt bad for a little while. But he soon got **bored**. A few days later, he did it again.
8. Billy would then go to the nurse's station where there was a quiet room. He would do his homework, then sit and stare at the walls. Billy would try to look as **bored** and as miserable as possible, in the hope someone would notice and convince his mother to let him go home.

bother **both** · **er****Definition****verb**

1. to annoy or give trouble to.

The loud noise is bothering us.

2. to disturb or interrupt.

Don't bother me while I'm studying.

3. to make the necessary effort.

Tanya never bothers to clean her room.

Advanced Definition**transitive verb**

1. to annoy or irritate, usu. with something minor.
2. to make puzzled or disturbed.

The answer I got bothers me.

3. to disturb or interrupt.

intransitive verb

1. to make an effort; inconvenience oneself.

He does not bother to clean up his room.

noun

1. a person or thing that is troublesome or annoying.
2. a worried or confused state.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Robinson didn't let the racism **bother** him.
2. She didn't want to **bother** Jason or embarrass herself.
3. She would figure things out on her own and not **bother** Jason with questions.
4. Those kids who learn to talk to parents learn how to deal with problems that **bother** them.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a meaning of the word **bother**?

- A. honor
- B. cherish
- C. irritate

2. What is another meaning of the word **bother**?

- A. keep quiet
- B. get in the face of
- C. faithful

Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.

3. It's not the sound that _____ me so much as the pictures it puts in my head.

- A. bothersome
- B. bothering
- C. bother
- D. bothered
- E. bothers

4. I don't want to _____ Jason with questions.

- A. bothersome
- B. bothering
- C. bother
- D. bothered
- E. bothers

5. If he was still _____ her this much when he was 60, she thought, she would have to count for a long time.

- A. bothersome
- B. bothering
- C. bother
- D. bothered
- E. bothers

6. Packing for a trip is so _____.

- A. bothersome
- B. bothering
- C. bother
- D. bothered
- E. bothers

7. If _____, they may just flyaway.

- A. bothersome
- B. bothering
- C. bother
- D. bothered
- E. bothers

8. Please write your own sentence using the word **bother**.

9. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word **bother** so that you can use it when you write or speak?

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a meaning of the word **bored**?

- A. tired of the world
- B. not moving quickly
- C. a system of measure

2. What is another meaning of the word **bored**?

- A. pertaining to geography
- B. suffering from boredom
- C. in good working order

Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.

3. I used to think my life was _____.

- A. boring
- B. bored
- C. boredom
- D. bore
- E. borer
- F. bores

4. Tidal _____ only happen in some rivers.

- A. boring
- B. bored
- C. boredom
- D. bore
- E. borer
- F. bores

5. The adult emerald ash _____ nibbles on the leaves of the ash tree.

- A. boring
- B. bored
- C. boredom
- D. bore
- E. borer
- F. bores

6. We slept from _____, rather than from fatigue.

- A. boring
- B. bored
- C. boredom
- D. bore
- E. borer
- F. bores

7. The timber beetles get under the bark and _____ into the tree.

- A. boring
- B. bored
- C. boredom
- D. bore
- E. borer
- F. bores

8. I eat junk because i'm _____.

- A. boring
- B. bored
- C. boredom
- D. bore
- E. borer
- F. bores

9. Please write your own sentence using the word **bored**.

10. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word **bored** so that you can use it when you write or speak?

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a meaning of the word **argument**?

- A. a relation between people
- B. greatest amount allowed
- C. a contentious speech act

2. What is another meaning of the word **argument**?

- A. apartment consisting of a series of connected rooms
- B. a manual accompanying a technical device
- C. a discussion in which reasons are advanced for and against some proposition

Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.

3. It started with an _____ over who got to be which character.

- A. argument
- B. argue
- C. argued
- D. arguments
- E. counterargument
- F. argues
- G. arguing

4. They _____ all morning about how to tend the crops.

- A. argument
- B. argue
- C. argued
- D. arguments
- E. counterargument
- F. argues
- G. arguing

5. Obviously he does not regard either his misdoings or my _____ as serious.
- A. argument
 - B. argue
 - C. argued
 - D. arguments
 - E. counterargument
 - F. argues
 - G. arguing
6. As soon as the sun brought forth a new day, the brothers began to _____.
- A. argument
 - B. argue
 - C. argued
 - D. arguments
 - E. counterargument
 - F. argues
 - G. arguing
7. Her brothers were still _____ next door, but they seemed miles away.
- A. argument
 - B. argue
 - C. argued
 - D. arguments
 - E. counterargument
 - F. argues
 - G. arguing

8. For once, no one _____ with you.

- A. argument
- B. argue
- C. argued
- D. arguments
- E. counterargument
- F. argues
- G. arguing

9. But your _____ has some merit.

- A. argument
- B. argue
- C. argued
- D. arguments
- E. counterargument
- F. argues
- G. arguing

10. Please write your own sentence using the word **argument**.

11. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word **argument** so that you can use it when you write or speak?