

2.12 Working in groups

1 Why work in groups?

- (a) F (a kind of culture shock)
- (b) F (normally)
- (c) F (students are normally told who they will work with)
- (d) F (3 reasons)
- (e) T
- (f) F (paragraph 2)

2 Making group work successful

(This order emphasises personal relations in the team; a more task-orientated approach is also possible.)

1	Get to know the other members
2	Make everyone feel included
3	Analyse the task
4	Plan the job and the responsibilities
5	Divide up the work fairly, according to the abilities of the members
6	Select a co-ordinator/ editor
7	Finish the assignment on time

3 Dealing with problems

- a (i) The lazy students will learn nothing from this approach, and the same problem will occur next time they are involved in group work.
- a (ii) Although it may seem difficult, this is the only positive solution.
- a (iii) Your teachers are unlikely to help – group work is designed to make these problems your responsibility.

- b (i) Your teachers are unlikely to help – group work is designed to make these problems your responsibility.
- b (ii) This will not help you in the long run – you must learn to take part in discussion.
- b (iii) The right approach. The other members probably don't realise that you are having difficulties with their language.

- c (i) If everyone in the group takes part the offender will be forced to accept that their behaviour is unhelpful.
- c (ii) Your teachers are unlikely to help – group work is designed to make these problems your responsibility.
- c (iii) You will run the risk that they will get a poor mark and so everyone will suffer.