Lesson 07. Pointing Fingers

▶ All about blaming others and being bothered!

▶ Multiple choice quiz

1 Language points

1) bug – bother – annoy – irritate

2) drive nuts / crazy / up the wall – piss / tick off – get on one's nerves / under one's skin

3) whine – complain – nitpick – moan – gripe – bitch

4) blame on / for – to blame*

5) pass the buck – shift the blame

6) bad / poor / lame excuse – cop out

① bug – bother – annoy – irritate

- all mean the same thing basically, not too strong
- follow simple SVO

▶ It really annoys me that she didn't come to my wedding. I thought we were good friends.

▶ This itch under my cast is really bugging me.

▶ He keeps tapping his foot under the desk and it's really annoying me.

② drive nuts / crazy / up the wall – piss / tick off – get on one's nerves / under one's skin

- much stronger, but the same as the verbs in slide #1

▶ My neighbor upstairs is playing music late at night and it's driving me nuts!

▶ Listening to her smack her lips when she eats really gets under my skin. I can't stand it!

▶ David pissed me off when he was late to our client meeting.

▶ My husband's snoring is driving me up the wall at night!

③ whine – complain – nitpick* – gripe – bitch & moan*

- now to describe someone else's dissatisfaction or annoyance

▶ Kyeong-min keeps griping about the fact that he's stuck in traffic all morning. He needs to take the subway so we won't have to listen to his whining.

▶ I feel bad for Lenny. His girlfriend nitpicks every little mistake he makes in their relationship.

▶ He keeps bitching and moaning about his terrible job, but he doesn't put any effort into finding a new one.

▶ Jinny drives me crazy whenever we go out to eat. She always whines about the food and she's so picky about the service

④ **blame on / for- to blame***

- don't confuse the prepositions!
- I blame (the source of the problem) for (the problem)
- I blame (the problem) on (the source of the problem)

▶ James blamed his little brother for breaking the lamp in the dining room.

▶ James blamed the broken lamp in the dining room on his little brother.

▶ John blamed the traffic jam for his lateness.

▶ John blamed his lateness on the traffic jam.

▶ I think the politicians are to blame for the crumbling infrastructure.

⑤ **pass the buck- shift the blame**

- when someone wants to avoid punishment or scolding
- avoiding blame

▶ When the press asks the president about the nation's unemployment, he just passes the buck to congress.

▶ Whenever something goes wrong with a project, Lisa always shifts the blame to her coworkers.

⑥ **bad / poor / lame excuse - cop out**

- nouns used when avoid blame

▶ John was late again today. He blames it on the traffic and it's becoming a lame excuse.

▶ Lisa said that no one helped her with the project, but I think it's just a cop-out for her not taking it seriously enough.

2 Apply to the book

▶ **Pages 39-40, Dialogue and Comprehension**

#5 What kind of excuses do you usually give for being late or missing an appointment? Are they convincing?

▶ **Sample answers**

I think my friend was a bit *irritated* the last time I was late. I not only came late, but I gave him a *lame excuse*. I *blamed* a late train *for* making me late even though line 2 has a train every 2-3 minutes.

▶ **Page 41, Activity 1, Who's Responsible?**

Homelessness- Who is to blame?

▶ **Sample answers**

It *drives* me *nuts* when I see more and more homeless people around Seoul station. The city government is *to blame*! They try to *pass the buck* to the national government and say there's no funding to help the homeless, but it seems like a *poor excuse* to me.

▶ **Page 43, Discussion**

If you live with someone, what are some of the things they do that bother you the most? What do you do that drives him or her crazy?

▶ **Sample answers**

I know I *annoy* my wife when I *nitpick* about her cooking, but it really *gets under* her *skin* when I leave the refrigerator door open. Meanwhile, I get really *pissed off* at her when she turns the heat up too high. Every time the gas bill comes in the winter I end up *griping* at her.

▶ **Page 43, Discussion**

Are you a nitpicker? Do you know someone who nitpicks?

▶ **Sample answers**

I just can't go out to dinner with my mother-in-law. She *nitpicks* everything on the table. Then, after dinner, we have to listen to her *bitch and moan* about how the meal gave her indigestion. It *drives* my wife and I *up the wall*. What really *gets on* my *nerves* is that my father-in-law just sits there and takes it!

3 Review quiz

#1.

It _____ me when a student shows up late with a _____, but it really _____ if they don't show at all and don't send a message.

A. bother B. shifts the blame C. lame excuse D. gets under my skin
E. nitpicks F. annoys G. drive me nuts

F, C, D

#2.

It _____ me how the mayor is always giving _____ for the city's problems and _____ to the federal government.

A. ticks off B. poor excuses C. moaning D. passing the buck E. gripe F. really bothers

F, B, D

#3.

My wife's brother _____ when we were on our big family vacation in Hawaii. He _____ every little problem in the hotel room, and he _____ because it rained one day.

A. griped B. annoys me C. nitpicked D. lame excuse E. drove me crazy F. bothered

E, C, A