

In episode 2, Mei writes to her family about Milton. What do you think she says about him?

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. to share a flat
2. to do someone a favour
3. a burglar
4. I wonder if ...
5. spare
6. embarrassing
7. to lend
8. a hook

Definition

- a. a person who illegally enters buildings and steals things
- b. something that makes you feel ashamed or shy
- c. a polite way of asking something
- d. to do something kind to help someone
- e. extra; available to be used
- f. something fixed to a wall or door that you can hang things on
- g. to give something to someone, expecting them to give it back
- h. to live with other people

Tasks

Task 1

Write a number (1–8) to put the events in the order they are mentioned.

_____ Milton asks Mei if she can lend him some milk for his coffee.

_____ Mei tells her parents that she is trying to organise her new flat before she starts work.

_____ Mei says that she doesn't have any family or friends in London.

_____ Mei tells Milton that he should keep his key on a hook on the door.

_____ Milton asks Mei if she can keep a spare key for him.

_____ Mei says that her flat is big for one person.

_____ Milton says that his room is very small.

_____ Mei tells her parents that the first time she met her neighbour, he didn't have his key.

Task 2

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. Mei liked Milton from the beginning.	True	False
2. Milton climbed through Mei's window when he didn't have his key.	True	False
3. Milton works early mornings.	True	False
4. Mei refuses to keep a spare key for Milton.	True	False
5. Milton doesn't like sharing a flat.	True	False
6. Mei tells her family not to worry about her.	True	False

Discussion

Have you ever helped your neighbour?

Transcript

Mei: Hello, Mum and Dad. How are you both? I'm sorry for not writing before, but I'm trying to organise my new flat and the furniture before I start work. My new flat is nice. I'm not sure about the neighbours though. I met one called Milton. The first day he didn't have his key and I thought he was a ... a burglar, which was embarrassing. Then yesterday ...

Milton: Mei? Hello? Are you in there? It's Milton.

Mei: Hello.

Milton: Um, everything OK?

Mei: Yes, everything's OK. Thank you.

Milton: Um, I'm just going out. I'm going to work and I was wondering, well, if you could do me a favour. You know, after what happened before with the keys and climbing through the window and everything ...

Mei: You want to climb through my window again?

Milton: No! I don't want to do that again – ever. Which is why I want to ask you a favour. Do you think you could keep a spare key for me?

Mei: Keep a spare key for you?

Milton: Yeah, in case I forget mine again. Like I said, I used to leave one with Carolina downstairs, but she's gone away – and I've got such a terrible memory. I work evenings, so you'll probably be in when I get home. Would that be OK?

Mei: Uh, no, I don't think so. I don't want to have your key.

Milton: Oh. Oh, OK. Why not?

Mei: I don't think it's a good idea. You need to remember your keys. Every day.

Milton: Well, yes ...

Mei: Put a – what do you call it? – a thing like this, where you hang your coat ...

Milton: A hook?

Mei: Put a hook on the door, just by the lock, with your keys. Then you won't forget.

Milton: Well, yes, OK, that's a good idea. I just have to remember to put the keys on the hook ...

Mei: That's what he said. Really! I can be a good neighbour, but I'm not his mother. But then afterwards I started to feel a bit sorry. Maybe I was too hard. And then this morning ...

Milton: Mei? Hello? Are you in there? It's Milton.

Mei: Hello.

Milton: Hello. Are you OK?

Mei: Yes, thank you. I'm fine.

Milton: I haven't got any milk. I forgot to get any on Saturday. So I was wondering if, do you think you could ...?

Mei: You want me to give you some milk?

Milton: Lend, lend, not give. Just a bit. Enough to put in my coffee.

Mei: I can't. I don't have any milk.

Milton: Oh.

Mei: Really. I'm sorry. I don't want to be a bad neighbour, but I don't have any milk.

Milton: Oh, that's OK. You're not a bad neighbour. How's the new flat?

Mei: It's very nice. It's very big for one person. It's nothing like where I used to live in Beijing.

Milton: There are three of us in our flat. My room's the smallest one – like a cupboard. It's tiny, but it's cheap. I like sharing actually – I like being with other people. You never get lonely.

Mei: Mmm.

Milton: Have you got any friends in London?

Mei: No.

Milton: Family?

Mei: No. But that's OK. I've got a good job and that's why I'm here ...

Mei: And it's true – I'm here to work. I miss you all, but I'm OK. You know I can look after myself so don't worry about me. Give my love to Jiang and tell her I've still got the jade frog she gave me. I carry it with me all the time. I'll write again soon. All my love, Mei.

Answers

Preparation task

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

Task 1

- 5 Milton asks Mei if she can lend him some milk for his coffee.
- 1 Mei tells her parents that she is trying to organise her new flat before she starts work.
- 8 Mei says that she doesn't have any family or friends in London.
- 4 Mei tells Milton that he should keep his key on a hook on the door.
- 3 Milton asks Mei if she can keep a spare key for him.
- 6 Mei says that her flat is big for one person.
- 7 Milton says that his room is very small.
- 2 Mei tells her parents that the first time she met her neighbour, he didn't have his key.

Task 2

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. False
6. True