

Task 6

Identifying Problems and Solutions

Goal: To identify the problem in given situations and propose solutions

1. A new student at school hasn't had time to make friends. What is the problem? (The student won't have anyone to eat lunch with or play with during recess.) What is a solution? (The teacher could assign the student a buddy or ask for a volunteer.)
2. Your dog is not eating and it's sleeping all the time. What is the problem? (dog might be sick) What is a solution? (Take it to a vet.)
3. You dropped a plate of food on the kitchen floor and it broke. What is the problem? (There's a mess on the floor.) What is a solution? (Clean it up.)
4. Your class is too noisy for your teacher. What is the problem? (The teacher doesn't like the noise in your classroom.) What is a solution? (Students can be quiet without being reminded; the teacher can signal the class to be quiet.)
5. You have a broken leg and your school has steps. What is the problem? (You can't climb the steps.) What is a solution? (Use crutches; use the school ramp; have an adult carry you.)
6. Your pocket has a hole in it. What is the problem? (Things might fall out of the pocket.) What is a solution? (Sew the hole closed; don't use the pocket.)
7. You and your mom have been grocery shopping. You're in the car to go home, but you're not moving. What is the problem? (The car won't start; the car is out of gas; there is heavy traffic.) What is a solution? (Get the car jumped if the batteries are low; get more gas if you're out; call for a tow if you don't know what the car's problem is; be patient till the traffic moves.)
8. You're at the resource center and you're searching for a certain book. What is the problem? (Can't find the book you need.) What is a solution? (Ask the librarian; look in the card catalog or on the computer.)
9. It's July and your garden hasn't had rain for weeks. What is the problem? (Your plants will die/need water.) What is a solution? (Water the garden with a hose or a sprinkling can.)
10. Your dad says it's time to go to bed but you haven't finished all your math homework. What is the problem? (You don't have your homework finished.) What is a solution? (Ask your dad if you can stay up until you're finished; get up early in the morning to finish.)

11. Your baby sister is crying and you're the babysitter. What is the problem? (You have to figure out what's wrong with her.) What is a solution? (Change her diaper; see if it's time for her to eat; see if she needs burping.)
12. Your friend has lost the key to his house. What is the problem? (He can't get into his house.) What is a solution? (See if a neighbor has a key; see if a door is unlocked; see if a window is open to climb through; call his parent to get advice.)
13. You've lost the money your mom gave you to buy groceries. What is the problem? (You won't be able to buy what your mom needs.) What is a solution? (Tell your mom what happened.)
14. Your favorite chair has a broken leg. What is the problem? (You can't sit in it.) What is a solution? (Get it fixed; buy a new chair.)
15. You're setting the table and you don't have enough knives in the silverware drawer. What is the problem? (People won't be able to cut their food.) What is a solution? (See if there are more knives in the dishwasher; wash some dirty knives.)
16. It's the day for your class picnic but it's raining. What is the problem? (You can't go outside for the picnic.) What is a solution? (Have the picnic inside; change the picnic to another day.)
17. For this picnic, you and a friend were in charge of planning five games, but you can only think of three. What is the problem? (You need to have two more games.) What is a solution? (Ask some people for ideas.)
18. You walked home from school and your shoes are muddy. What is the problem? (You don't want to track mud into the house.) What is a solution? (Take your shoes off outside; clean your shoes before going inside.)
19. You have a date to meet your friend at the park at 4:00 for some batting practice. You don't have a watch. What is the problem? (You don't know what time it is.) What is a solution? (Ask someone about the time.)
20. You just erased the chalkboard and accidentally erased a part the teacher wanted to be saved. What is the problem? (You erased something important.) What is a solution? (Ask her what it was and write it over; apologize and ask her to write it again.)
21. Your mom gave you money to buy milk on the way home from school, but you spent it on a bag of chips and a soda. What is the problem? (You spent the milk money.) What is a solution? (Apologize to your mom, get more money, and go back to the store to get milk; use your own money to buy the milk.)

22. It's 4:00 o'clock and your sister who's in kindergarten isn't home yet. What is the problem? (You don't know where she is and you're worried.) What is a solution? (Look for her; call the school to find out if she's still there; call your parent.)
23. Your soup is too hot. What is the problem? (You could burn your mouth if you eat it right away.) What is a solution? (Let it cool off; blow on it to cool it down.)
24. You can't go to your friend's party until your homework is finished, and you have an hour of it left. What is the problem? (You don't want to miss the party.) What is a solution? (Ask your parents if you can go and promise to finish your homework as soon as you come home; just get it finished before going.)
25. You just ran out of notebook paper in the middle of writing your book report. What is the problem? (You need more paper.) What is a solution? (Go to a store to get more; borrow some from a neighbor.)
26. You're twenty minutes late getting up and the bus will be here in ten minutes. What is the problem? (You might be late for school; you might miss the bus; you'll have to skip breakfast.) What is a solution? (Skip taking a shower; get dressed, brush your teeth, comb your hair, grab a breakfast bar, and get out to the bus.)
27. As you're walking home, it starts to rain and you don't have an umbrella. What is the problem? (You're getting wet.) What is a solution? (Get out of the rain until it stops; run home as fast as you can and dry off.)
28. You're in the shower and you realize you don't have any soap. What is the problem? (You don't know how you'll get clean.) What is a solution? (Use shampoo to wash; turn the water off and go find some soap, then continue your shower.)
29. You fall off your skateboard and skin your knee. What is the problem? (You're hurt.) What is a solution? (Clean it off with warm water and soap and put a bandage on it.)
30. You have a tooth that hurts every time you eat candy. What is the problem? (Your tooth hurts; you probably have a cavity.) What is a solution? (See a dentist.)
31. Your desk is at the back of the room and you can't see the chalkboard. What is the problem? (You can't see what the teacher writes on the board.) What is a solution? (Ask the teacher to move your desk up in front; ask the teacher if you can copy a buddy's notes from the board.)
32. You're reading a book and come to a word you don't know. What is the problem? (You might not understand the part you're reading if you don't know what the word means.) What is a solution? (Look the word up in a dictionary; ask someone what the word means; look at the information around the word in the text to try to figure it out.)

33. Your dad turns on TV but the volume is very loud. What is the problem? (The TV is too loud for your listening comfort.) What is a solution? (Ask him to turn down the volume; turn down the volume.)
34. The water you're drinking isn't very cold. What is the problem? (It doesn't taste good to you.) What is a solution? (Put ice in it.)
35. Your bedroom is too hot. What is the problem? (It is uncomfortable in the room.) What is a solution? (Open a window; turn on a fan; turn on the air conditioning; go to a cooler room.)
36. You're full but you haven't eaten all of your lunch. What is the problem? (You can't finish your food.) What is a solution? (Throw the rest away; save it for after school.)
37. You're going for a boat ride on a lake. You can't swim. What is the problem? (If you go overboard, you won't be able to save yourself.) What is a solution? (Wear a life jacket.)
38. Your best friend's birthday is tomorrow. You don't have any money. What is the problem? (You have no money to buy your friend a present.) What is a solution? (Ask your parent for some money; ask your parent, brother, or sister to loan you some money and talk with them about how you'll pay them back; make or do something for your friend instead of buying something.)
39. You have started the batter for chocolate-chip cookies. Now you find you're out of chocolate chips. What is the problem? (You can't make chocolate-chip cookies.) What is a solution? (Go to the store to get some chocolate chips; put nuts or raisins in the batter instead of chips.)
40. Your piano recital is in three days but you haven't learned your piano piece. What is the problem? (You'll make a lot of mistakes.) What is a solution? (Spend several hours practicing to get it right.)
41. You're taking a math test and a classmate leans over and asks you for an answer. What is the problem? (You don't want to cheat but you don't want to say "no" to a friend.) What is a solution? (Ignore the student and explain your feelings after the test.)
42. Your mom is driving you to school and her car runs out of gas. What is the problem? (You'll be late for school.) What is a solution? (Call the school on your mom's cell phone and tell them you'll be late; walk to a gas station to get a can of gas; call a friend to bring you some gas in a gas can.)
43. You find a wallet in the boys' room. What is the problem? (The wallet isn't yours.) What is a solution? (Turn the wallet in to the secretary or teacher.)

44. Your refrigerator just stopped working. What is the problem? (The food inside will spoil.) What is a solution? (Call the repair person to fix it right away; empty the food and ask a neighbor if you can use her refrigerator for a day or two.)
45. You see something you want to buy but it costs more than what you have with you. What is the problem? (You don't have enough money.) What is a solution? (Don't buy it; borrow the money from a friend.)
46. You haven't seen your dog for several hours. What is the problem? (You think it's lost.) What is a solution? (Look for it; call for it.)
47. Two boys are fighting on the playground. What is the problem? (Fighting is against the school rules; someone might get hurt.) What is a solution? (Tell them to stop; find a teacher or the principal.)
48. You see someone stealing something from a gas station. What is the problem? (You don't know if you should tell someone or pretend you didn't see.) What is a solution? (Tell the cashier or store manager.)
49. It's 28 degrees and your furnace just quit. What is the problem? (Your home will get very cold soon.) What is a solution? (Call a repair person; visit a neighbor.)
50. You're riding your neighbor's moped and you discover the brakes aren't working. What is the problem? (You won't be able to stop.) What is a solution? (Don't give the moped any more gas; steer the moped up a hill; try to stop the moped with your feet; get the brakes fixed.)
51. The mail carrier has delivered a letter to your house that doesn't belong to anyone in your family. What is the problem? (You have someone else's mail.) What is a solution? (Give it back to the mail carrier.)
52. Your roof is leaking. What is the problem? (The leak will damage the ceiling; the water will drip on the furniture and the floor.) What is a solution? (Have the roof fixed.)
53. A plant was watered too much. There is water on the floor under the plant. What is the problem? (The plant was overwatered.) What is a solution? (Wipe up the water; let the plant dry out.)
54. You want to take your dog for a walk but you can't find its leash. What is the problem? (It might run away if it doesn't have a leash on; it's illegal to walk the dog without a leash.) What is a solution? (Find the leash or make one out of rope; don't take the dog for a walk.)
55. You're at a grocery store and can't find the cereal. What is the problem? (You can't find what you need.) What is a solution? (Ask someone where the cereal aisle is.)

56. You're reading your history homework and you don't understand some of the ideas in the chapter. What is the problem? (If you don't understand something, you won't learn it.) What is a solution? (Ask your teacher or your parent to explain it to you.)
57. There's no hot water for your shower. What is the problem? (You'll get cold in a cold shower.) What is a solution? (Wait a while to take a shower until there's more hot water; take a sponge bath.)
58. Your dentist has told you not to eat sweets for six months. You're at a party where there are ice cream, cake, meat sandwiches, and apples. What is the problem? (You can't eat sweets.) What is a solution? (Eat the sandwiches and apples.)
59. Your basketball is almost flat and you and your friends want to play. What is the problem? (You can't play basketball with a flat ball.) What is a solution? (Pump up the ball; get another ball.)
60. You're having a birthday party and there aren't enough chairs for everyone to sit. What is the problem? (Guests can't all sit on chairs.) What is a solution? (Some of them can sit on the floor; borrow some chairs from a neighbor or friend.)
61. You have a guitar lesson after school but you haven't practiced all week. What is the problem? (You won't do well at your guitar lesson.) What is a solution? (Go to the lesson, tell your teacher, and promise to do better this week.)
62. The electricity went off some time during the night and you just discovered it. What is the problem? (You don't know what time it is.) What is a solution? (Look at your watch.)
63. Your teacher is blaming you for starting a fight on the playground, but you were only watching. What is the problem? (Your teacher is accusing you unfairly.) What is a solution? (Calmly tell the teacher your side of the story and ask a friend to back you up.)
64. You're at school and you realize you left your homework at home. What is the problem? (You may not get credit for doing your homework.) What is a solution? (Call your mom and ask her if she can bring it to school; tell the teacher you'll bring it tomorrow.)
65. You have a science test tomorrow and you left your science book at school. What is the problem? (You can't study for the test without your book.) What is a solution? (Call a friend and ask if you can study with her or use her book; study by reviewing your notes.)
66. You see a dog chained outside with no water. What is the problem? (It's thirsty and needs water.) What is a solution? (Give it a bowl of water.)

67. Today is Monday. You want to go to the movies on Saturday but you don't have any money. What is the problem? (You need to earn money to go to the movies.) What is a solution? (Ask your parent for jobs to do to earn money.)
68. You're taking a test and the lead in your pencil breaks. What is the problem? (You can't continue taking the test.) What is the solution? (Borrow a pencil; sharpen your pencil.)
69. The book you are reading is too difficult for you. What is the problem? (You won't understand it.) What is a solution? (Read it with an adult; read an easier book.)
70. You're writing steps for a science experiment and you realize the steps to the experiment are out of order. What is the problem? (The experiment will be done wrong.) What is a solution? (Rearrange the steps into the correct order.)
71. You're supposed to take the bus home but your teacher is making you stay after school for talking too much. What is the problem? (You'll miss the bus home.) What is a solution? (Call home and see if someone will pick you up; walk home.)
72. Your friend has invited you to his birthday party but it's at the same time as your martial arts lesson. What is the problem? (You want to do both things.) What is a solution? (Try to change your lesson time; make a choice between these events.)
73. Your best friend's parents invite you to dinner. You do not like what they are serving. What is the problem? (You don't like the food at your friend's house.) What is a solution? (Eat a small amount of everything.)
74. You agreed to babysit until 10:00 p.m. It's after ten. What is the problem? (The parents are late.) What is a solution? (Call your parent to say not to worry; wait for the parents to come home.)
75. Randy uses a cane to walk, so it's hard for him to open doors with an armload of books. What is the problem? (Randy cannot easily open doors when he is carrying something.) What is a solution? (He should put things in a backpack to keep his hands free.)
76. You need to earn some money. You interviewed for an after-school job and did not get it. What is the problem? (You need spending money.) What is a solution? (Find another place to interview; ask friends and neighbors if they have work you can do for them.)
77. Kathy is invited to a swimming pool party. She cannot swim and is afraid of the water. What is the problem? (She wants to be with her friends but cannot swim.) What is a solution? (Kathy could go, explain her fear to her friends, and dangle her feet in the water.)