

Let's stay connected - Tip sheet

Topics: bill payment, household expenditure, negotiating different priorities, goal setting, problem-solving, joint accounts

Video format

This video has a Take 1 and Take 2 format to demonstrate that some conversations can be so challenging that it takes more than one attempt to get right. Bec and Dom have recently moved in together and have differing attitudes towards money and spending.



Commentary

Bec and Dom's different attitudes about money and spending have caused tension. This scenario highlights the importance of the following when sharing a house with a partner/friend:

- ▶ Each person preparing for money conversations and agreeing on a time and place
- ▶ Talking about spending styles and identifying priorities, differences and common goals then planning, budgeting and problem solving together

TAKE 1 REFLECTION:

1. What are your responses to Bec and Dom's communication with each other?

2. Are there any behaviours and assumptions that seem particularly unhelpful?

- ▶ Reflecting on aspects of one's own behaviour that may be creating difficulties in the relationship without getting angry, defensive or blaming the other person
- ▶ Listening respectfully and ensuring both people understand each other's perspective.

A number of assumptions and avoidant behaviours are demonstrated in Take 1:

- ▶ Dom avoids taking responsibility with bills, assuming it will turn out okay
- ▶ Bec assumes that Dom has spent money on sound equipment and the milk frother and therefore has no money for the bills.
- ▶ Dom hasn't discussed buying the sound equipment.
- ▶ Bec is unable to find the bills she printed. She expresses irritation towards Dom, but actually the issue is bigger than this.
- ▶ Dom has chosen to overlook Bec's email with the bills.

WIRE conversation kit

- ▶ Dom is focused holiday plans and appears surprised by Bec's level of stress.
- ▶ Both women avoid the practical behaviours and clear non-defensive communication that will set them up to have financial clarity and management

In Take 2 In - Bec and Dom meet each other half-way

This conversation demonstrates that if each person is open and takes responsibility for aspects of their behaviour that may not be working, it can be a great way to build understanding and further intimacy. It also demonstrates the importance of affirming your partner and making positive suggestions.

TAKE 2 REFLECTION:

1. Identify examples of each person acknowledging something they find difficult or don't do in regards to money.
2. Identify examples of each person affirming their partner or offering a positive suggestion.

Free support and further information

- ▶ For more information about joint accounts see the Joint Account Tip Sheet.
- ▶ [WIRE](#) - 1300 134 130
- ▶ [Money Smart website](#)