

Context #1:

Jane (knocks on her neighbor's open window): Excuse me, it is 11 o'clock already, and your high-pitched opera singing is really disturbing my sleep. Please stop your noise immediately! I have an important job interview tomorrow, and I want to get a good night sleep. I really need this job to pay my rent!

Diane: (resentfully): Well, this is the only time I can rehearse my opera! I've an important audition coming up tomorrow. I need to pay my rent. Stop being so self-centered!

Jane: (frustrated): I really think you're being very unreasonable. If you don't stop your singing right now I'm going to file a complaint with the apartment manager and he could evict you.

Diane (sarcastically): Okay, be my guest...Do whatever you want. I'm going to sing as I please.

Questions:

1. How do you feel about Diana's actions?
2. Why do you think Diana reacted the way she did?
3. What would you do in this situation?
4. Is this in a high- or low-context culture?
How do you know?



Context #2:

Mrs. A: Your daughter has started taking piano lessons, hasn't she? I envy you, because you can be proud of her talent. You must be looking forward to her future as a pianist. I'm really impressed by her enthusiasm - *every day*, she practices so hard, for hours and hours, until late at night.

Mrs. B: Oh, no not at all. She is just a beginner. We don't know her future yet. We hadn't realized that you could hear her playing. I'm so sorry you have been disturbed by her noise.

Questions:

1. How do you feel about Mrs. B's reactions?
2. Why do you think Mrs. B reacted the way she did?
3. What would you do in this situation?
4. Is this in a high- or low-context culture?
How do you know?

