

## Lesson six PROBLEMS – Fragment

### Exercise one

Listen.

- 1) **TO STIR THINGS UP** *umyślnie powodować zamęt, zamieszanie*  
*to deliberately try to have arguments*  
Melanie is a real troublemaker. She stirs things up wherever she appears.
- 2) **TO POUR OIL ON TROUBLED WATERS** *łagodzić sytuację*  
*to try to make an angry situation calmer*  
Sue was really mad at Steve so he tried to pour oil on troubled waters by offering to take her out for a meal.
- 3) **TO LAY ONE'S CARDS ON THE TABLE** *wyłożyć karty na stół*  
*to tell somebody honestly what you think or plan to do*  
Chris decided to lay his cards on the table and inform Betty he was in love with someone else.
- 4) **TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS** *dotrzeć do sedna, do prawdy*  
*to discover the truth about the situation*  
It is difficult for the police to get to the bottom of this crime as there are no witnesses who could confirm what really happened.
- 5) **TO GET A GRASP** *pojąć coś*  
*to get the ability to understand something*  
Sue had few language skills before she left Poland. After she had spent a year in London, they really developed and she got a good grasp of English.
- 6) **TO SEE A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL** *zobaczyć światło w tunelu*  
*to believe that a difficult situation will end*  
Inflation is still rising but analysts say there is a light at the end of the tunnel and it will start falling before the end of the year.
- 7) **TO SWEEP UNDER THE CARPET** *ukrywać problem (zamiast stawić mu czoło)*  
*to try to hide a problem instead of dealing with it*  
When some people don't know how to deal with a problem they prefer to sweep it under the carpet and pretend not to bother about it.
- 8) **TO BE IN A FIX** *być w potrzasku*  
*to be in a difficult situation*  
I'm in a real fix. The car doors are locked and the keys are inside.
- 9) **TO BE AT A CROSSROADS** *być na rozdrożach*  
*to be at a crisis, at a turning point in one's life*  
When Julie divorced her husband, she found herself at a crossroads. She wasn't sure whether she should stay in Spain or go back to Britain.
- 10) **TO FIND A HAPPY MEDIUM** *znaleźć złoty środek*  
*to find a way that is not extreme but is somewhere between two possible choices*  
Nowadays it's very difficult for young women to find a happy medium between having a family and a career.