

# 5 Why's Activity

*A problem is half-solved if properly stated. John Dewey*

Read the following practice dialogs in pairs to get a better understanding of how to use the 5 why's process.

## Practice 1: Can't Find a Job

- A: I can't find a job.  
B: Why?  
A: No one will hire me.  
B: Why?  
A: Because they don't know what a good job I can do.  
B: Why?  
A: I do not do well at interviews.  
B: Why?  
A: I am nervous and don't express myself well.  
B: Why?  
A: I need to improve my interviewing skills.

Possible solution: \_\_\_\_\_

## Practice 2: My Car Stopped

- A: My car stopped on my way to work.  
B: Why did your car stop?  
A: Because it ran out of gas.  
B: Why did it run out of gas?  
A: Because I didn't buy any gas on my way to work.  
B: Why didn't you buy any gas this morning?  
A: Because I didn't have any money.  
B: Why didn't you have any money?  
A: Because I lost it all last night in a poker game.

Possible solution: \_\_\_\_\_

## Practice 3: The Washington Monument

- A: The Washington Monument is disintegrating.  
B: Why?  
A: They use harsh chemicals to clean it.  
B: Why?  
A: To clean off the pigeon poop.  
B: Why so many pigeons?  
A: They eat spiders and there are a lot of spiders at monument.  
B: Why so many spiders?  
A: They eat gnats and there are lots of gnats at monument.  
B: Why so many gnats?  
A: They are attracted to the light at dusk.

Possible solution: Turn on the lights at a later time.

Write down a problem you are having. Then work with your partner using the "5 Why's" tool. What did you learn using this technique?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_