

 Read the letter to the advice columnist and the columnist's response.

column = a regular article in a newspaper or a magazine

columnist = the writer of columns

advice columnist = an expert, usually a psychologist, who gives advice to the readers of a magazine in response to their letters or messages

Ask Pamela . . .

Dear Pamela,

I've always been considered a "nice person," but I guess you could also call me "a soft touch." A year ago my husband's sister, Sarah, was in a desperate situation and needed a thousand dollars immediately to pay off a loan she had defaulted on.



a soft touch = a doormat = a wimp = a person who is easily manipulated by other people

desperate = hopeless

husband's sister = sister-in-law

default on a loan = be unable to pay back a loan

She asked us to lend her the money. At first I suggested that she go through the usual channels and get a bank loan. She said she'd tried that and had been turned down. She pressured my husband for a loan, and he pressured me. Sarah assured us that if we lent her the money, she would pay it back with interest. I gave in and advanced her a thousand dollars from my own account, but I shouldn't have. In fact, had I known what was going to happen, I never would have

I **suggested** that she **go** through the usual channel and **get** a bank loan.

Verb of Urgency + That-Clause

suggested => Verb of Urgency

go, get => Subjunctive Form of the Verb

she'd tried = she had tried

pressure (v.) = put pressure on sb; pressurize sb

give in = surrender

advance (v.) = give

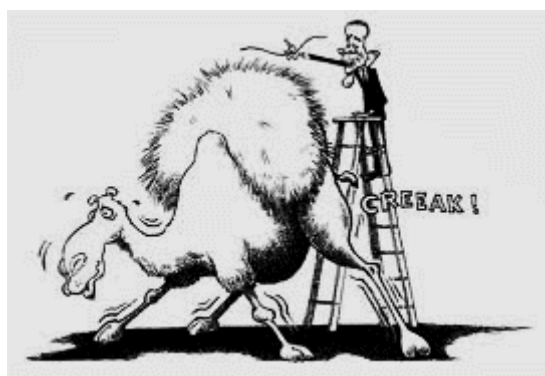
have. In fact, had I known what was going to happen, I never would have said yes. We didn't put anything in writing, and Sarah hasn't paid us a red cent. I am extremely angry about this, but whenever I mention it to Carl, my husband, he says that Sarah suffers from low self-esteem and is going through a rough time right now. And, he says, it's important that we keep peace in the family. Were I to confront Sarah, he says, it would be the straw that broke the camel's back. Pamela, what should I do? What if I confront her and it ends up being a blow to her self-esteem or it causes trouble in the family?

Furious in Frankfort

had I known = if I had known
had I known => **Inverted If-Clause**

a red cent = پول سیاه، پشینز، پاپاسی، پول
self-esteem = confidence
rough = hard; difficult

Were I to confront Sara = If I were to confront Sara = If I confronted Sara
Were I to confront Sara => **Inverted If-Clause**



the straw that broke the camel's back = too much pressure; pressurizing a person more than what he/she can tolerate
the straw that broke the camel's back = مثل کاردی است که به استخوان رسیده

What if ... = What will happen if ...
What if => **Implied Conditional**



Frankfort = a city in Kentucky, USA

Frankfurt = a city in Germany

furios = very angry

Furious = an alias; a false name

Dear Furious,

Sweetie, it's one thing to be a nice person, but it's another to be a doormat. It sounds like you let people take advantage of you. If so, I'd say it's time you got some assertiveness training. Without it, you'll just keep letting people tell you what to do. In my view, you should have insisted that Sarah sign a notarized agreement spelling out the terms of repayment. It's too late for that now, though, so I

doormat = wimp, soft touch

take advantage of sb = manipulate sb = کسی را مورد سوء استفاده قرار دادن

If so = If this is true

If so => **Implied Conditional**

It's time (that) you **got** some assertiveness training.

It's (high/about) time + that-clause

got => **The Subjunctive Form of the Verb**

assertive (adj.) = frank = open, honest, and direct

assertiveness (n.) = being assertive

Without it = If you don't have it

Without it = **Implied Conditional**

In my view = In my opinion

You should have **insisted** that Sara **sign** a notarized agreement.

Verb of Urgency + That-Clause

insist => Verb of Urgency

sign => **Subjunctive Form of the Verb**

notarized = official

notary = notary public = a person, especially a lawyer, with official authority to be a witness when somebody signs a document and to make this document valid in law = سردفتر، محضردار =

notary public office = دفتر ثبت اسناد رسمی، محضر =

spell out = explain clearly

terms = conditions

terms = words

in no uncertain terms = firmly

spelling out the terms of repayment. It's too late for that now, though, so I recommend that you arrange a meeting between yourself and Sarah. And, if I were you, I wouldn't worry too much about Sarah's self-esteem. Leave Carl out of it. Call Sarah and ask her to meet you for lunch at a restaurant. At the lunch meeting, tell her calmly but in no uncertain terms that you're angry and that this thing has gone far enough. Insist that she start making immediate repayments. Should she balk at what you're saying or mention Carl, simply tell her that this is between you and her, that you don't want family squabbles, and that there won't be any as long as she makes the payments. Make it clear that she must make the payments; if not, you'll take her to small claims court. It's essential that Sarah understand you're

Insist that she **start** making immediate repayments.
Verb of Urgency + That-Clause
insist => Verb of Urgency
start => **Subjunctive Form of the Verb**

Should she balk at ... = If she balks at ...
Should she balk at ... = **Inverted If-Clause**

balk at = to be unwilling to do sth or get involved in sth
➤ Many parents may balk at the idea of paying \$100 for a pair of shoes.
squabble = argument, dispute

if not = if she doesn't do that
if not => **Implied Conditional**

Small Claims Court = a court of law in which judges deal with cases which are not serious = شورای حل اختلاف

you'll take her to small claims court. It's essential that Sarah understand you're serious; otherwise, she'll simply go on taking advantage of you. Tell Carl what you've done after you've met with Sarah. You don't need to get angry. Just say that it was your money that was lent, that this is the way things are going to be from now on, and that you'd rather the two of you didn't get into a fight about it. Then look around for a course in assertiveness. With a little work, you can learn not to be a wimp. Good luck, and be calm but courageous!

Pamela

It's **essential** that Sara **understand** that you're serious.
Adjective of Urgency + That-Clause
essential => Adjective of Urgency
understand => **Subjunctive Form of the Verb**

otherwise = if not so
otherwise => **Implied Conditional**

go on = continue
take advantage of = manipulate

You'd rather (that) the two of you didn't get into a fight about it.
would rather + That-Clause
didn't get into => **Subjunctive Form of the Verb**

courageous = brave