

Philip's Fantastic Friends

This puzzle comes from a book called, 'Just Think', by Philip West.

Each puzzle in the book starts with an argument between twins, Philip and Phoebe. They rarely agree on anything and always believe themselves to be correct.

From learning about the 4Cs, we know to be caring when our opinions differ. Read or listen to their argument, think about their disagreement, and make up your own mind.

Philip has come up with a brilliant idea for making lots of money. He is going to design, patent and sell machines called "Phillip's Fantastic Friends".

The Fantastic Friend will be an improvement on normal, human friends in various important ways. It will be a better listener, for a start, giving you its full interest and attention for hours at a time if necessary. It will always laugh at your jokes, and it will never get grumpy, bored, or tired.

The Friend will be programmed always to agree with you - unless you don't want it to, of course, in which case it will argue against you resourcefully before finally admitting that were right all along. It will be full of bright ideas for what to do but will always fall happily in line with what you choose.

Most importantly of all, the Friend will always like you, and will never fall out with you.

Philip thinks his idea is a winner but he is meeting a bit of consumer resistance from his twin sister.

'What a *stupid* idea! complains Phoebe. 'Only a *boy* could think that would be a *real* friend! I want a proper person as my friend, not some machine that has been programmed to like me!

- **Would the Fantastic Friend be an improvement on human friends, as Philip thinks, or not a real friend at all?**
- **What is a genuine friend?**
- **What other questions are you thinking about?**