

Trouble vs. Issue

Life nowadays is very difficult and complicated. There are so many things we're expected to do, and so many things that go wrong. Sometimes it feels as though the world is against us: global warming, a pandemic, and war have become problems in 2020 alone. And within these bigger problems are the ones that are directly related to you, like having to do remote work, needing internet access, or losing electricity because of a typhoon.

All your problems can seem like personal problems, but in reality, some of those problems may not be because of you. We can divide problems into two categories: troubles and issues. Troubles are your personal problems, like fights in relationships, failing your tests because you did not study, or not replying to your friends because you forgot to buy load for your phone. These problems are caused by you, possibly because you forgot to or did not do something. Issues, on the other hand, are public problems. High marriage failure rates, unemployment, and an entire class failing a test are some examples. These problems may affect you, but they do not exist because of you. With issues, there is usually something wrong with the whole system, like a company or a society, and that causes problems for you, but you did not cause those problems. In other words, troubles are the problems that you cause and are only related to you, and issues are the problems that are given to you by others and usually affect multiple people.

Think about connecting your device to the Internet. Sometimes when we try to connect to the wifi, it does not work. When that happens, we often try again, ask others if they can connect, and if it is working for them. If other people are able to use the same wifi connection we're trying to use, it usually means there is something wrong with our device specifically, or with the connection we're trying to make. This would be a personal trouble, and we would try to see what was wrong and fix it. But if other people are having similar problems as us, and everyone cannot connect to the internet, then there might be something wrong with the wifi network itself. This would be an issue, because it is affecting the public and cannot be easily solved alone on one device. Fixing the wifi would require communicating with others who are trying to use it, and sometimes asking for help from experts or whoever is in charge of the network.

We can take a look at unemployment as a larger example. There are two main reasons people could be having trouble finding a job: either they did not get good grades or referrals and companies decide to hire other applicants instead of them, or companies are not offering any jobs at all. For example, if this person's job application shows that they did not have good grades in school, or did not do well at their last job, companies may not want to hire them. Instead, companies would hire someone who did well in school, or someone who did good work at their previous job. When the problem is bad grades or a bad reputation at their old job, we can see the direct link from the person to the problem. Because the person did not do enough work to have a strong job application, they did not get the job. This problem is then more likely to be considered a trouble, since it exists because of the person with the problem.

However, when no jobs are looking for new workers, this is not the fault of the person looking for a job. For example, during the COVID19 pandemic, a lot of companies were forced to let go of a lot of workers, because they could not afford to pay salaries. They also have not been offering new jobs, because they are not making as much money as they used to. If a person were looking for a job at this time, even if they had a strong job application, they would still only have a really small chance at getting a job, because no one is offering jobs. This is considered an issue, because it affects the public, and not just one person. This person, along with many other people, are having trouble finding jobs because there are no jobs to find. The cause of the problem is not the person, but the entire system, and it affects a big group of people, not just one.

If you are looking for a job, you try to do everything you can to get one, including working on your application, doing well in your interview, or being a good employee in your current job. If there is an unemployment issue, however, no matter how hard you work, the odds are against you getting a job. That does not mean you can't get one—if you work hard enough and you apply at the right time to the right place, you could get accepted. There are ways, then, to solve an issue as it relates directly to you. However, that does not solve the issue as a whole. Just because you got a job does not mean there isn't a lack of jobs available. Solving the issue would require things that you as an individual cannot do alone, and will take lots of time and effort by a lot of people.

Troubles are personal problems that can be solved by the individual, because they are caused by that individual's own actions and usually only impact that individual. Issues can impact an individual in the same way, but also affects others, because they are public problems that are caused by the system as a whole. Issues cannot be easily solved by a single person, and usually require a change in the system to fix the problem. Many problems in your life might seem like troubles, which can be solved by studying more, or working harder, but in truth they are issues. If you work hard, you could fix your problems for yourself, but the issue will still remain. But if a lot of people work together to fix the issue itself, they can change their society for the better.

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