

8 UNIT

To be a better parent

This unit is designed to help you to

- practice reading in sense groups;
- ask for and make clarification;
- use evidence and facts to support your opinion;
- understand the relationship between parents and children.

WARM UP

① Interview at least two of your classmates about what their parents did when they were children.

QUESTIONS	STUDENT 1	STUDENT 2
1 Did your parents often read to you?		
2 Did your parents spend much time with you?		
3 Did your parents give you pocket money? If yes, how much?		
4 Did your parents help you with your homework?		
5 Did your parents often praise you? If yes, how?		
6 Did your parents punish you when you did something wrong? If yes, how?		
7 Did your parents often compare you with other children?		

② Summarize the results of your interview and report to the class.

PRONUNCIATION

- 1 Listen to a passage. Mark the sense groups as you listen.

Being a parent is the biggest responsibility we can have in our lives. It's scary if you think about it. You have to look after a tiny baby for years and years. It's your duty to make sure that little baby grows up into a wonderful, happy and responsible human being. Parenting means knowing everything from day one. This is a shock to many parents. But it's actually not that scary. In fact, parenting is life's biggest joy. I can't put into words how wonderful it is to be a parent. My biggest worry is that society doesn't pay much attention to parenting. We really should have classes at school on being good parents. I'm sure we would reduce the number of problems in society if we did this.

- 2 Listen to the passage again and read after the recording.



WARM UP

2

Reference answers

Student 1

- 1 No. Both my parents were very busy, so they didn't have much time to read to me. But they bought me a lot of books that I'd like to read.
- 2 No. As they were busy, we didn't have much time together except on weekends.
- 3 Yes, my parents gave me pocket money, just enough to buy some stationery, books, and to pay for my transportation, etc.
- 4 No, I did my homework all by myself.
- 5 My parents seldom praised me. They are not good at expressing themselves, but I know they love me very much.
- 6 My parents gave me much freedom to choose my own leisure activities. But I was once addicted to playing video games, which not only affected my study but also impaired my health. My parents criticized me severely and as a punishment, I was not allowed to use the computer or surf the Internet for several months.
- 7 No, my parents never compared me with other children. They think I am unique.

Student 2

- 1 Yes, my parents often read to me, especially at bedtime when I was small. Later when I started school, we had some time reading together every day.
- 2 Yes, my parents spent a lot of time with me. We often played games, read stories, watched movies, etc. together.
- 3 Yes, my parents gave me pocket money. They even opened a bank account for me and let me learn to manage my own daily expenses.
- 4 My parents helped me with my homework only when I had difficulty working it out.

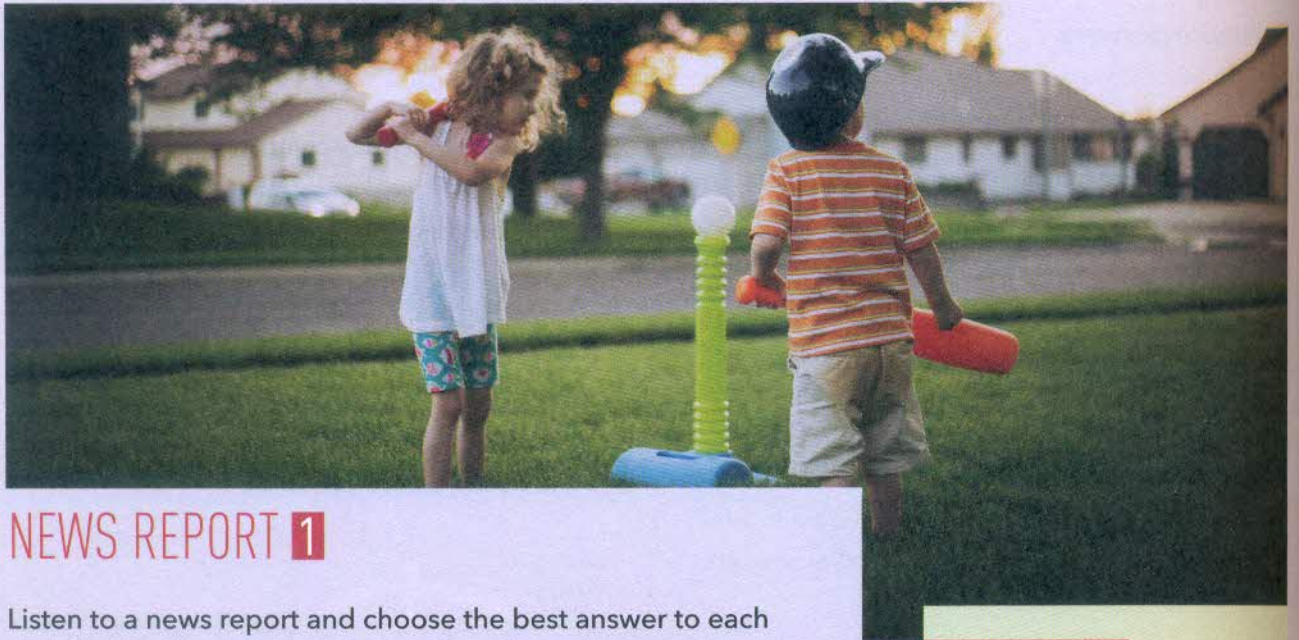
- 5 Yes, my parents praised me a lot, even for the smallest progress I had made. They wanted me to know that they loved me very much.
- 6 Whenever I did something wrong, my parents punished me by reducing my pocket money or letting me do more housework. They wanted me to know the consequences and take responsibility.
- 7 My parents sometimes compared me with other children. They just wanted me to know other children's strong points and learn from them.

PRONUNCIATION

Scripts

Being a parent / is the biggest responsibility / we can have / in our lives. / It's scary / if you think about it. / You have to look after a tiny baby / for years and years. / It's your duty to make sure / that little baby grows up into a wonderful, happy and responsible human being. / Parenting means knowing everything / from day one. / This is a shock to many parents. / But it's actually not that scary. / In fact, / parenting is life's biggest joy. / I can't put into words / how wonderful it is / to be a parent. / My biggest worry is that / society doesn't pay much attention to parenting. / We really should have classes at school / on being good parents. / I'm sure / we would reduce the number of problems in society / if we did this.

LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND



NEWS REPORT 1

Listen to a news report and choose the best answer to each question you hear.

- A. Today's toys are arranged in shops by colors.

B. Good toys are not available.

C. Today's toys are not as fun as before.

D. Today's toys reflect gender differences.
- A. All toys are for all children.

B. A T-ball set is an ideal toy for children.

C. Toys shouldn't be packed in colored boxes.

D. Dolls are made for girls and trucks for boys.

WORD BANK

doll /dɒl/ *n.* 玩偶

T-ball *n.* 儿童棒球

gendered /'dʒendəd/ *a.* 带性别色彩的

discrimination /diˌskrɪmɪ'neɪʃn/ *n.* 歧视

Harvard Medical School 哈佛医学院 (美国)

NEWS REPORT 2

Listen to a news report and choose the best answer to each question you hear.

- A. Playing ball games.

B. Playing wrestling.

C. Running marathons.

D. Running with his children.
- A. It is not easy to take care of children.

B. It is impossible to balance parenting with work.

C. It is very important to be with children.

D. It is very important to inspire children to exercise.

WORD BANK

stroller /'strɒlə/ *n.* 轻便婴儿车

wrestle /'resl/ *n.* 摔跤; 扭打

Calum Neff /'kæləm nef/ 卡勒姆·奈夫 (人名)

Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon 丰业银行多伦多湖滨马拉松赛

Holland /'hɒlənd/ 霍兰 (人名)

LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND

NEWS REPORT 1

Scripts

Many toymakers usually target kids with different toys, such as putting certain toys in pink boxes for girls and in blue boxes for boys. Parents also consider gender differences when buying toys for their children.

Recently, some campaigns are trying to change this stereotype. Rather than believing dolls are for girls while trucks are for boys, they think all toys are for all children.

The former US President Obama also talked about this matter when attending a children's event. He suggested a T-ball set was an ideal gift for girls. He said: "I'm just trying to break down these gender stereotypes."

"Children use toys to try on new roles, experiment and explore interests," explains a psychologist at Harvard Medical School. "Gendered toys tell kids who they should be, how they should behave, and what they should be interested in." This is an unhealthy and misleading situation.

Recent research shows there are now far fewer non-gendered toys available for children than in any previous era, even fewer than 50 years ago, when gender discrimination was socially acceptable.

Questions

- 1 What do we learn about today's toys?
- 2 What are some campaigns advocating?

Answers

1 D 2 A

NEWS REPORT 2

Scripts

On Sunday, the athlete Calum Neff broke the world record for running the fastest marathon while pushing a stroller.

While running with his 4-year-old daughter, Neff finished the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon with a time of 2:31. He beat the current record by 11 minutes.

Neff has a habit of running with his children. In February, he competed in a half marathon with his 11-month-old daughter Holland, and beat the world record by more than 2 minutes.

Calum shared his experience of how to balance running with work and parenting. "I think when you love something, it's not a matter of finding time. Family, running, and yes, even work, I care about, so I have the time," he said. "Having my own time with the girls is also very important. The relationship and type of love is different between parents, so being able to share my activities, or just play wrestle with them when I get home from work is all part of their development and the balance."

Calum said that he hoped to inspire his families to find time to enjoy fresh air and exercise together.

Questions

- 1 What is Calum Neff's habit according to the news report?
- 2 What did Calum Neff think of parenting?

Answers

1 D 2 C

NEWS REPORT 3

WORD BANK

chore /tʃɔː/ n. 家庭杂务

faithfulness /'feɪθfʊlnɪs/ n. 忠贞

the Pew Research Center 皮尤研究中心 (美国)

Listen to a news report and choose the best answer to each question you hear.

- 1 A. Children were more important than good housing.
B. Children were less important to a successful marriage.
C. Children were no longer important for a successful marriage.
D. Children ranked third in importance among factors that affect marriage.
- 2 A. Bearing and raising of children.
B. Sharing family responsibilities.
C. Supporting each other's career.
D. Mutual happiness and fulfillment.
- 3 A. Via email.
B. By telephone.
C. On the Internet.
D. Through interview.



NEWS REPORT 3

Scripts

The percentage of Americans who consider children very important to a successful marriage has dropped sharply since 1990, according to a nationwide new survey.

The Pew Research Center survey found that children had fallen to eighth out of nine on a list of factors that people associate with successful marriages – well behind “sharing household chores”, “good housing”, “adequate income”, and “faithfulness”.

In a 1990 survey, children ranked third in importance among the same items, with 65 percent saying children were very important to a good marriage. Just 41 percent said so in the new Pew survey.

The survey also found that more Americans say the main purpose of marriage is the “mutual happiness and fulfillment” of adults rather than the “bearing and raising of children”.

Experts said the changing views may be linked to America’s lack of family-friendly workplace policies such as paid leave and help to cover the cost of child care.

The new Pew survey was conducted by telephone from mid-February through mid-March among 2,020 adults.

Questions

- 1 What did the new Pew survey show?
- 2 What is the main purpose of marriage for more Americans?
- 3 How did the Pew Research Center conduct the survey?

Answers

- 1 B 2 D 3 B

LISTEN TO COMMUNICATE



CONVERSATION 1

1 Listen to a conversation and choose the best answer to each question you hear.

- 1 A. Children's behavior. B. Children's problems.
C. Parenting techniques. D. Difficulties of parenting.
- 2 A. Parents often criticize their children.
B. Parents know how to bring up children.
C. Parents often complain about their children.
D. Parents are quick to complain about things.
- 3 A. Not to show too much affection to children.
B. To be friendly with children.
C. To communicate with children regularly.
D. To let children grow in their natural way.
- 4 A. Parents shouldn't allow children to surf the net.
B. Parents shouldn't allow children to use smartphones.
C. Parents should encourage children to learn the digital things.
D. Parents should monitor how often children use the Internet.

2 Listen to the conversation again and fill in the blanks with the techniques of parenting mentioned by the woman.

- 1 First of all, it's very important to _____.
- 2 It's also necessary to _____.
- 3 It's wise to let children _____.
- 4 It's of course very important to _____.

WORD BANK

affection /ə'fekʃn/ n. 喜爱; 慈爱
foster /'fɒstə/ v. 培养

LISTEN TO COMMUNICATE

CONVERSATION 1

Scripts

Susan: We often hear parents complaining about their children nowadays, regarding their studies, behavior, company and activities.

Martin: Well, to be a good parent is not an easy job. All the parents wish to bring up their children in the best way.

Susan: That's true. But more often they're not able to do so for lack of good parenting techniques.

Martin: I agree. Now that you are an expert in this field, what techniques of parenting do you recommend?

Susan: First of all, it's very important to be friendly with children. Parents need to communicate with children on a regular basis so that they feel comfortable to share their needs or problems.

Martin: Well, this is what many articles say.

Susan: It's also necessary to maintain a balanced friendship. It means parents should not show too much affection. Otherwise the children may be spoiled.

Martin: That's right. As far as I know, parents often compare their children with other children.

Susan: Well, every child has a particular nature and capacity. Parents need to know them and encourage them to foster their positive things without making comparison among their children or with others. It's wise to let children grow in their natural way.

Martin: I agree. How about the monitoring part?

Susan: It's of course very important to monitor children's behavior, especially today when they are digital children. A good parent needs to monitor how they have been using their smartphones, the Internet, etc. If such

things are misused or overused, they can be very harmful.

Martin: Thank you very much for your advice. That's very helpful.

Susan: Hope so.

1

Questions

- 1 What are the speakers mainly talking about?
- 2 What does the woman think of parents?
- 3 How can parents maintain a balanced friendship with their children?
- 4 How can parents monitor children's behavior?

Answers

1 C 2 C 3 A 4 D

2

Answers

- 1 be friendly with children
- 2 maintain a balanced friendship
- 3 grow in their natural way
- 4 monitor children's behavior

CONVERSATION 2

1 Listen to a conversation and choose the best answer to each question you hear.

- 1
 - A. Write a paper.
 - B. Give a speech.
 - C. Have a debate.
 - D. Do a research project.
- 2
 - A. Get money from parents.
 - B. Get a job when they are 14.
 - C. Learn something about finance.
 - D. Learn how to save money.
- 3
 - A. It will make kids upset.
 - B. It will make kids excited.
 - C. It will teach kids how to save.
 - D. It will give kids financial support.
- 4
 - A. Children should learn to invest.
 - B. Children should have some income.
 - C. Children should have a part-time job.
 - D. Children should not worry about stock market.

2 Listen to the conversation again and match the opinions with the speakers.

OPINIONS	THE WOMAN	THE MAN
1 I think it's really important that kids learn something about finance.		
2 Kids should play around instead of worrying about the stock market crash.		
3 Children can also invest if they want to and turn that investment into more money.		
4 There will be a lot of consequences when you burden kids with financial responsibilities.		
5 Junior high school's too early to start to teach kids about finance.		

CONVERSATION 2

Scripts

Hanna: So, next week I will have a debate in my finance class.

Peter: Oh, really? What's your debate about?

Hanna: Our debate topic is whether we should teach finance to kids, things like investment and the stock market, tax, etc.

Peter: OK, and what do you think of the topic?

Hanna: I think it's really important that kids learn about things like this, particularly in our society these days. I mean, even when you're 14 or 15, you go out and get a job and you have to start doing things like paying taxes. You can also invest if you want to and turn that investment into more money.

Peter: But don't you think that there will be a lot of consequences when you burden kids with financial responsibilities? I mean kids are kids after all. Shouldn't they be playing around instead of worrying about the stock market crash?

Hanna: Well, they don't have to worry about the stock market crash, but I think it's good if they just know a little bit about it.

Peter: But if they have all the information every time there's a drop in stock prices, they're going to become very upset. And you know, in doing so, you're giving kids too much to worry about at an age they shouldn't be worrying about these things.

Hanna: So you think junior high school's too early to start to teach kids about this kind of stuff?

Peter: I think so, especially considering the fact that they don't even have an income.

Hanna: What if they do have an income?

Peter: Well, their income would be something like five dollars an hour, so I don't think they'll be investing any of that.

1

Questions

- 1 What is the woman going to do in her finance class?
- 2 What does the woman think children should do?
- 3 What does the man think about kids learning finance?
- 4 Which statement will both speakers probably agree with?

Answers

1 C 2 C 3 A 4 D

2

Answers

- 1 the woman
- 2 the man
- 3 the woman
- 4 the man
- 5 the man



ACT-OUT

Work in pairs. You and your partner are going to have a conversation about whether children should be encouraged to use smartphones. Discuss the positive and negative effects, and then act out the conversation.

Positive effects:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

Negative effects:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

COMMUNICATION SKILLS: Asking for / Making clarification

In a conversation, clarification is often needed either in case you don't understand what the other person has said or in case you have to clarify your own ideas.

Asking for clarification

- So you think ... ?
- Do you mean that ...?
- Could you be more specific, please?
- Can you explain what you mean by that?
- Can you give some examples to illustrate your point?
- What do you mean by ...?

Making clarification

- I mean ...
- What I mean is ...
- In other words, ...
- Sorry, let me put it another way.
- The point I am making is ...
- Let me explain it in more detail.

ACT-OUT

Reference answers

Positive effects:

- 1 Smartphones can provide children with a sense of safety, support and control over their lives.
- 2 Smartphones can also help children with their study.
- 3 It's fun to learn with technology.

Negative effects:

- 1 Children are easy to get addicted to smartphones.
- 2 Using smartphones may affect children's normal daily life.
- 3 Using smartphones would affect children's health and their study as well.

Conversation for reference

- A:** I often hear many parents complaining about the effects of using smartphones on their children. What do you think of children using smartphones?
- B:** Generally, I think it's good. You see, smartphones can provide children with a sense of safety, support and control over their lives.
- A:** What do you mean by that? Could you be more specific?
- B:** What I mean is that children can use the phone to communicate with their parents and friends easily. For example, when they get lost, they can use the smartphone to get in touch with their parents or maybe just find home with a navigation App.
- A:** But have you ever thought that smartphones can also have a lot of bad effects on children? For example, children are usually less self-disciplined. They're easy to get addicted to smartphones. If so, it may affect their normal daily life. They may get less sleep and that would affect their health and their study as well.
- B:** That's true. But parents should teach children what to do with smartphones. Actually, smartphones can also help children with their

study. Many learning Apps can increase children's interest in learning new things.

- A:** Do you mean that smartphones can do more good than harm to children?
- B:** Yes. Anyway, it's fun to learn with technology. You know, this is a technological era. It's difficult or even impossible to restrict children from getting in touch with new technology. So what we should do is to teach them how to make good use of it.

LISTEN TO SHARE

WORD BANK

socialize /'səʊʃə,laɪz/ v. 交际

cooperative /kəʊ'ɒp(ə)rətɪv/ n.

合作团体

PASSAGE 1

① Work in pairs and discuss the following questions.

- 1 Do you know any child who is homeschooled? If yes, why do they choose homeschooling?
- 2 What do you think are the benefits and drawbacks of homeschooling?

② Listen to a passage and choose the best answer to each question you hear.

- 1
 - A. Homeschooling becomes more and more popular in the US.
 - B. Homeschooling is less popular in the US than before.
 - C. Only a small number of children are homeschooled in the US.
 - D. Many parents choose to teach children at home in the US.
- 2
 - A. Homeschooled students can't go to college.
 - B. Homeschooled students can't learn proper knowledge.
 - C. Homeschooled students won't get opportunities for socializing.
 - D. Homeschooled students don't have enough teaching materials.
- 3
 - A. To arrange field trips.
 - B. To arrange birthday parties.
 - C. To attend school lectures.
 - D. To prepare personalized lessons.

③ Listen to the passage again and fill in the blanks with what you hear.

Reasons for homeschooling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some parents worry that their children 1) _____ in school because of school bullying. • Some parents want their children's education to be based on their 2) _____. • Some parents feel school education is 3) _____. • Homeschooling is a choice for families that 4) _____ or that often travel.
Ways of homeschooling	<p>Homeschooling allows parents to personalize lessons according to their children's needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents can buy textbooks or 5) _____. • Some parents allow children to determine 6) _____ based on their natural curiosity. • Some families arrange a group of homeschooled students to 7) _____ and participate in activities like field trips and dancing parties.

LISTEN TO SHARE

PASSAGE 1

1

Reference answers

1 Homeschooling is not common in China, but I do know someone who was homeschooled. It is Zheng Yuanjie's son. Zheng Yuanjie is regarded as "the King of Fairy Tales" in China. His son finished elementary education at school and then was homeschooled for his secondary education. Mr. Zheng made this decision for his son because he was unhappy with the teaching style of traditional schools in China.

2 **Benefits of homeschooling may include:**

- Children's learning time is more flexible than that at school.
- Parents can arrange classes according to children's interests.
- There is less pressure than learning at school.

Drawbacks of homeschooling may include:

- There is less communication with peers.
- The courses may not be standard compared with courses at school.

Scripts

Not every parent looks forward to the day when their child goes off to school. In fact some parents are not sending their children to school at all. Instead they choose to teach their children at home. In the US about 3% of children are homeschooled.

There are many reasons why parents choose to homeschool. One reason is that some parents do not feel their children are safe in school because of school bullying. Other parents want their children's education to be based on their religious or moral beliefs. Yet other parents feel that the education in school is not good enough. Homeschooling is also seen as a choice for families that live in rural areas, and families that travel, like actors.

There are many different ways to homeschool, and homeschooling allows parents to personalize lessons based on their children's needs. Families can buy textbooks or create their own materials. Some parents follow the unschooling philosophy, which allows a child to determine when and how they want to learn based on their natural curiosity. Some people may worry that homeschooling means students won't have opportunities to socialize. To deal with this concern, some families have created cooperatives, where a group of homeschooled students learn and play together, and participate in activities that would normally happen in school, like field trips and dancing parties.

Being homeschooled doesn't mean a student cannot go to college. Most colleges accept homeschooled students. It's important, however, for parents and students to provide proof of what has been learned.

2

Questions

- 1 How popular is homeschooling in the US according to the passage?
- 2 What do some parents worry about regarding homeschooling?
- 3 What do parents do to help homeschooled children to socialize?

Answers

1 C 2 C 3 A

3

Answers

- 1) are not safe
- 2) religious or moral beliefs
- 3) not good enough
- 4) live in rural areas
- 5) create their own materials
- 6) when and how they want to learn
- 7) learn and play together

PASSAGE 2

1 Work in pairs and discuss the following questions.

- 1 How do you feel about parents spanking children as a punishment?
- 2 What effects do you think spanking have on children?

2 Listen to a passage and choose the best answer to each question you hear.

- 1
 - A. Positive effects of spanking.
 - B. Effective ways to discipline children.
 - C. Spanking and children's intelligence.
 - D. New research about intelligence development.
- 2
 - A. It has been banned.
 - B. It has been a hot issue for years.
 - C. Occasional spanking is acceptable.
 - D. Modern parents still favor spanking.
- 3
 - A. It examined children over their whole childhood.
 - B. It considered children's academic performance as well.
 - C. It first discovered the link between spanking and intelligence.
 - D. It found a stronger link between spanking and intelligence.

3 Listen to the passage again and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Researchers advised parents to look for various ways to discipline children.
- 2 Modern parents still use the traditional way of spanking as a form of punishment for children.
- 3 Experts on child behavior say spanking children is more damaging than beneficial.
- 4 Explaining why things are wrong can help children think about and decide what's right and what's wrong.

WORD BANK

spank /spæŋk/ v. 打(小孩的屁股)

discipline /'dɪsə,plɪn/ v. 管教

scar /skɑː/ n. (精神上的) 创伤

logic /'lɒdʒɪk/ n. 逻辑

Murray Straus /'mʌrɪ straus/ 默

里·施特劳斯(人名)



PASSAGE 2

1

Reference answers

- 1 • I don't think spanking is a good way to educate children. For one thing, spanking children without telling them what's wrong doesn't help them to behave. For another, I think spanking just shows parents' inability to educate children.
- As a kind of punishment, maybe sometimes spanking is necessary for naughty children.
- 2 • Spanking may have some immediate effects on disciplining children, but its long-term effects may not be good.
- Some reports say spanking can do harm to children, and it may leave very bad memories in children's mind.

Scripts

New research shows that spanking children can affect their intelligence.

It's found that the IQs of 2-4-year-olds who received regular spankings from their parents dropped by more than five points over four years, compared with kids who were not spanked. The lead researcher Murray Straus advised parents not to spank in any case. So parents should look for other ways of disciplining children if they want their children to be bright.

Spanking children has been a hot issue over the years. It is a traditional way for a parent to punish a child. However, it has fallen out of favor with modern parents. Child behavior experts warn that spanking does a lot more harm than good. It can leave emotional as well as physical scars, and painful stresses negatively affect the brain. Stress, anxiety and fear that children experience might explain why spanking slows cognitive development. Mr. Straus suggested that explaining to a child why their behavior is wrong could provide learning opportunities. The child has to think and use his

own logic to decide for themselves what's right and what's wrong.

This research isn't the first evidence that spanking children comes with a cost. However, the new research indicates a stronger cause-effect relationship between spanking and intelligence than other studies. This is because it examined children over the course of four years and considered many factors, such as parents' education and whether they read to their children or not.

2

Questions

- 1 What is the speaker mainly talking about?
- 2 What does the speaker say about spanking?
- 3 What is special about the new research?

Answers

1 C 2 B 3 D

3

Answers

1 F 2 F 3 T 4 T

PRESENTATION

Parenting style is getting more and more attention in the early education of children. Prepare a presentation about "parenting styles and children's development". In your presentation, you will talk about, but are not restricted to the following:

- 1 Different types of parenting styles.
- 2 Their impacts on children.
- 3 Importance of parenting on children's development.

PRESENTATION SKILL: Using evidence and facts

When we give a presentation, using evidence and facts to support our ideas will make it more impressive and convincing. Remember the evidence and facts we choose to use must be true and reliable.

Using evidence from research

- A new research finding shows ...
- Researchers from ... say ...
- According to the latest research ...
- A very interesting survey by ... shows that ...
- A number of studies have shown ...

Quoting facts

- The following fact illustrates that ...
- It's a well-known fact that ...
- The fact (of matter) is ...
- Given the fact that ...
- This idea is supported by the fact that ...

PRESENTATION

★ 为便于师生互动，此板块已预存为个人作业。教师可用电脑登录U校园，进入“作业与测试”模块，选择相关内容点击发布。

Reference answers

Parenting styles and children's development

Good morning, everybody. As we know, there are a number of things which affect a child's development. One of those things is the parenting style. Now I'd like to talk about parenting styles and children's development.

Generally speaking, there are three types of parenting styles: strict, permissive and balanced.

First, let's look at strict parenting. Strict parents have strict rules for and high expectations of their children. These parents don't give children choices or options. An example would be: "Do as what I told you!" Instead of rewarding good behavior, these parents often punish their children with little or no explanation. Researchers have found that children with strict parents seldom learn to think independently. They often look to others to decide what's right. Consequently, these children usually rank lower in happiness, social competence, and self-esteem.

Next is permissive parenting. Permissive parents tend to be very loving, yet provide few rules. These parents emphasize their children's freedom rather than responsibility. In a sense, they seem more like friends than parents. An example would be: "Whatever you want to do is fine with me." A number of studies have shown that children with permissive parents tend to perform poorly in school. And even worse, these children do not accept the responsibility for their own actions, but often blame someone else if they get in trouble.

The third type is balanced parenting. Balanced parents set limits, but in a much more democratic way. These parents are responsive to their children

and willing to listen to them. They expect a great deal of their children, but they also provide support and feedback. An example would be: "You need to do this because it is good for your development." According to the latest research, children raised by balanced parents generally do better in school. They have higher self-esteem, greater ability to control their behavior. In comparison to other children, they can make wiser decisions. As a result, they are more likely to be successful in the future.

To sum up, parenting styles impact children. Different parenting styles have different impacts on children's development. Given the fact that balanced parenting style tends to achieve more positive outcomes, parents need to rethink how they can nurture their children in a better and balanced way.

VIEW THE WORLD



WORD BANK

snuggle /'snʌgl/ v. 依偎

count on 依靠; 指望

① Watch a video clip and check (✓) the statements of how the women think of themselves as mothers.

- 1 I am a perfectionist, and so that harms the kids.
- 2 I don't think I'm a caring mother.
- 3 Struggle with my temper.
- 4 I wish I were friends with my children so that they'd like to discuss their problems with me.
- 5 I wish I knew how to ... I guess just calm myself before speaking to them.
- 6 I wish I was better at taking time to sit down and just listen more to my child.
- 7 I should have paid more attention to his studies.
- 8 I wish I was more confident in being a mom.
- 9 I'm not the most patient person in the world.
- 10 I just want them to know just how much I love them.

② Work in pairs and discuss the following questions.

- 1 In the video clip, all the women think they are not good enough as mothers, but all the children think positively of their mothers. Can you explain why?
- 2 What is the relationship between parents and children like in China?

VIEW THE WORLD

Scripts

(M = Mother; K = Kid)

- M1:** I am a perfectionist, and so that harms the kids.
- M2:** There's (There are) definitely days when I have my doubts about my abilities.
- M3:** Struggle with my temper.
- M4:** I struggle with, like, how I react with situations.
- M5:** I wish I knew how to ... I guess just calm myself before speaking to them.
- M6:** I wish I was better at taking time to sit down and just listen more to my child.
- M7:** I wish I was more confident in being a mom.
- M8:** I'm not the most patient person in the world.
- M9:** Patience.
- M10:** Patience is, in a way, probably the biggest struggle.
- M1:** I just want them to know just how much I love them.
- K1:** My mom is totally awesome.
- K2:** She's a friend to snuggle with.
- K3:** Pretty, funny.
- K4:** She does cook a lot of food for me.
- K5:** She's just unique, that's why I love her so much.
- K6:** We go on dates together, like, we go shopping.
- K7:** She loves me a lot.
- K8:** I have a lot of favorite things about my mom.
- K9:** We go to church together; we volunteer together.
- K10:** She is like my heart, I guess you could say, cuz she's that close to me.
- K6:** She's pretty and beautiful.
- K9:** She is my hero.
- K11:** She is just who care (cares) about me, and just always love (loves) me forever.

K2: She's the best.

M3: That's so awesome.

M9: I always seem to focus mostly on the negative and I guess I can walk out of here and say that I'm doing something great. And that my child is viewing me totally differently than that I view myself. So that's, that's inspiring.

M11: This is my calling, this is my job, this is what I love to do, and I will do it ... better and with love, each and every day because those kids count on me and they love me for what I'm doing.

①

Answers

1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10

②

Reference answers

- It is possibly because moms always hope they can do better for their children. They always feel they are not doing well enough and they want to sacrifice more and give their children more. On the other hand, children tend to think their moms are the best in the world. As a Chinese saying goes, "A son never deserts his mother for her homely appearance." In a sense, these are because of love between mothers and children.
- In general, parents from different cultures differ in the methods to deal with the relationship with their children. Different from parents in Western culture, traditional Chinese parents are not good at expressing their loving feelings to their children frequently and obviously.
 - Some Chinese parents have much expectation of their children and give them painful stress. These parents are unlikely to form a good relationship with their children. Meanwhile, many other parents try to develop a friendly relationship with their children. They are their children's friends as well as advisors.

FURTHER LISTENING

WORD BANK

be obsessed with 对……着迷
neglect /nɪ'glekt/ v. 疏于照料
crush /krʌʃ/ v. 压伤; 压死
near miss n. 侥幸脱险

NEWS REPORT

Listen to a news report and choose the best answer to each question you hear.

- A. A little boy.
B. A netizen.
C. A 2-year-old girl.
D. A young mother.
- A. Because she neglected her duty of parenting.
B. Because she let her daughter walk alone.
C. Because she let her little daughter use her smartphone.
D. Because she didn't feel guilty after the accident.

CONVERSATION

Listen to a conversation and choose the best answer to each question you hear.

- A. He often makes trouble at home.
B. He doesn't study hard in school.
C. He often asks for money.
D. He won't do anything without a reward.
- A. Herself.
B. Her son.
C. The school.
D. The babysitter.
- A. He used to live a miserable life.
B. He used to be obedient to his mother.
C. He got many rewards for good behavior.
D. He wouldn't do anything without a reward.
- A. To help her babysit the kid.
B. To help her with housework.
C. To help her discipline the kid.
D. To give her a few parenting lessons.

WORD BANK

bribe /braɪb/ v. & n. 贿赂; 收买
obedience /ə'bi:diəns/ n. 顺从
desperate /'desp(ə)rət/ a. 绝望的

FURTHER LISTENING

NEWS REPORT

Scripts

The death of a toddler last week has aroused anger over parents who are obsessed with smartphones and neglect their duty of parenting.

A 2-minute video clip, widely shared on the Internet, captured a horrific scene of a 2-year-old girl being hit and then crushed by a car. When the accident took place, the girl was walking alone ahead of her phone-absorbed mother. The girl didn't survive.

Netizens expressed their anger over the mother. They said that parents should keep their responsibility and duty in mind.

The accident was not a single case. In August last year, a similar tragedy happened when a boy was hit by a car in a parking zone. His father was checking his phone somewhere else when the boy was knocked down.

Experts on child care have warned that parents obsessed with their smartphones are putting their children in danger of serious accidents. According to new research, almost a quarter of parents were obsessed with their devices when their children suffered an accident or had a near miss.

Questions

- 1 Who suffered an accident last week?
- 2 Why were the netizens angry with the mother?

Answers

1 C 2 A

CONVERSATION

Scripts

Chris: No, you can't have a new bike if you get an "A" on the test. You should study hard because you want to do well in school. We'll talk about it when I get home tonight!

Andy: What's the matter?

Chris: My son won't do anything without a reward. I know it's my own fault for offering rewards for good behavior. But now, all he wants to know is what he'll get if he does what I ask.

Andy: Rewards are OK if you don't use them too often, aren't they?

Chris: That's the problem. I feel like I have to bribe him to do the simplest things. I get home from work and I'm tired and anxious. I don't want another power struggle, so I rely on bribes. But actually it doesn't work.

Andy: What do you mean?

Chris: Now my son won't do anything without knowing what's in it for him. And he keeps asking for more. Soon I'll have to start paying cash to get him to behave.

Andy: I don't know what to say. When I was growing up, my mother made it clear that we should behave and share the housework. We wouldn't dare misbehave for fear of making her angry because she sacrificed a lot for the family. We never got rewards for good behavior. It was just expected of us.

Chris: What's your mother's phone number? Is she available to babysit?

Andy: Uh, I don't know. I don't think she could inspire that kind of obedience from other people's children.

Chris: I'm desperate! At the very least, she can give me a few parenting lessons.



PASSAGE

Listen to a passage and choose the best answer to each question you hear.

- 1
 - A. Fathers' parenting styles.
 - B. Fathers' work experience.
 - C. Fathers' commuting to work.
 - D. Fathers' educational background.
- 2
 - A. Parents often feel stressed and tired by parenting.
 - B. Children usually have social and emotional problems.
 - C. Fathers' daily commute to work doesn't influence their children.
 - D. Fathers' absence from home affects both parents' parenting styles.
- 3
 - A. The mother loses interest in family life.
 - B. The mother tends to be soft with children.
 - C. The mother may be at a loss about what to do.
 - D. The mother has an increased workload in the home.

WORD BANK

commute /kə'mju:t/ *v. & n.* 通勤
 pro-social /prəu 'səʊʃəl/ *a.* 忠实于既定社会道德准则的
 fatigue /fə'ti:g/ *n.* 疲乏
 resort /rɪ'zɔ:t/ *v.* 采取
 harsh /hɑ:ʃ/ *a.* 严厉的

Berlin Social Science Center
 (WZB) 柏林社会科学研究中心

(See T126 for Scripts)

Questions

- 1 What is the problem with the woman's son?
- 2 Who is to blame for her son's problem according to the woman?
- 3 What do we learn about the man when he was young?
- 4 What does the woman expect the man's mother to do to help her?

Answers

- 1 D 2 A 3 B 4 D

PASSAGE

Scripts

Fathers' commuting to work has multiple negative impacts on children's behavior, a new study said last Monday.

A study conducted by researchers from Berlin Social Science Center (WZB) shows that children whose fathers commute to work over a long distance tend to have more emotional and social problems.

WZB researchers examined the relationship between fathers' commuting to work and children's social and emotional well-being at ages 5-6 in Germany.

The study has shown that fathers' daily commute to work is associated with more peer problems in their children two years later.

While a daily commuting distance of 40 km or more each way is associated with lower levels of pro-social behaviors, longer daily commuting for 60 km or more each way is linked to more problems with peers.

According to the study, these negative effects mainly result from stress and fatigue associated with the long commute to work and the father's absence from home, particularly for fathers who commute weekly

to work. These factors may lead to poor parenting on the part of both the father and the mother. When stressed and tired, parents tend to resort to harsh parenting styles, which in turn causes behavioral and emotional problems in children.

Moreover, fathers' absence from the family also leads to a mother's stress and affects her parenting behavior, because the mother will then have an increased workload in the home without the partner's support.

Questions

- 1 What has negative impacts on children's behavior according to a new study?
- 2 What does the WZB study find?
- 3 How does the father's absence from home affect the mother?

Answers

- 1 C 2 D 3 D

EXIT TICKET

Check the following lists to see what you have learned from this unit.

1 Vocabulary

- 1 I don't know the word.
- 2 I know the word when I see it, but I don't know when I hear it.
- 3 I know the word when I see and hear it, but I don't know how to use it in my own speaking.
- 4 I know the word when I see or hear it and can use it in my own speaking.

	1	2	3	4
affection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
spoil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
foster	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
bully	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
socialize	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
discipline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
resort	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
harsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Functional language

Asking for clarification

- So you think ... ?
- Do you mean that ... ?
- Could you be more specific, please?
- Can you explain what you mean by that?
- Can you give some examples to illustrate your point?
- What do you mean by ... ?

Making clarification

- I mean ...
- What I mean is ...
- In other words, ...
- Sorry, let me put it another way.
- The point I am making is ...
- Let me explain it in more detail.

Using evidence from research

- A new research finding shows ...
- Researchers from ... say ...
- According to the latest research ...
- A very interesting survey by ... shows that ...
- A number of studies have shown ...

Quoting facts

- The following fact illustrates that ...
- It's a well-known fact that ...
- The fact (of matter) is ...
- Given the fact that ...
- This idea is supported by the fact that ...

3 Skills

- learn to read in sense groups
- ask for and make clarification
- use evidence and facts to support your opinion

4 Ideas and cultures

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____