

## Text I

### **Are We Raising a Generation of Spoilt Brats?** *Judith Woods*<sup>1</sup>

#### Pre-reading questions

- 1. British parents nowadays are compared by some people to cash cows. They will do all they can to satisfy their children, who are being brought up to be wasteful, dissatisfactory, ungrateful brats. What do you think of their increasingly affluent Chinese counterparts? Are they doing more or less the same thing?*
- 2. As the so-called "post 90s", you are most probably the only child in your family. You must have enjoyed excessive attention from your parents and grandparents. Do you think you have been made over-dependent by their care?*

(Abridged)



1 **T**hey kit themselves out daily in clothes and accessories worth £700. Their mobile phones are better than ours, and they have busier social lives and access to money on demand. And demand they do: whether it be the latest jeans or a computer upgrade, instant gratification is the byword, and refusal is not an option. Welcome to the pampered existence of today's children, a place where pester power<sup>2</sup> rules and parents are milked like cash cows.<sup>3</sup>

2 We all love our children, want them to succeed and will do anything we can to give them the best start in an increasingly competitive world. We hate it when they are unhappy, and recoil when they shout, and taking the path of least resistance seems easier; after all, the other parents are all doing it. But

the message we are sending out to our children is that they should expect the things they want in life to be handed to them on a plate<sup>4</sup>. And many experts believe our pushover parenting is doing more harm than good.

3        So why do parents find it so difficult to say no? Could we be doing our children a grave disservice by letting them have their own way? Are we rearing a generation of spoilt brats?

4        That some middle-class<sup>5</sup> parents who are bringing up spoilt brats is partly a generational thing. Parents who were themselves brought up in a very disciplinarian way are determined not to do the same with their children, but they struggle to find a balance between saying no and saying yes. It is simply easier to say yes.

5        In Britain, we tend to have a houseful of underage despots, lounging inconsiderately across every sofa, throwing tantrums<sup>6</sup> when the latest must-have accessory is denied them, and treating their parents as little more than lackeys.<sup>7</sup>

6        “I’m the breadwinner and the only thing I ask is that when I come home, I get to relax in my armchair,” says Gary, who runs an IT company. “But my 17-year-old son is usually sitting there and refuses to get up. I know it sounds petty, but it makes me livid. He gets £35 a week pocket money, plus the clothes, computers and mobile phones that he needs, but he won’t show me the most basic courtesy. He hardly even glances up when I come into the room.”

7        A recent survey revealed that the average teenager leaves the house in an outfit worth more than £229, jewelry bought for £125 and a £75 watch. Mobile phones, MP3 players and wallets add another £300, bringing the total up to around £700. Our youngsters have developed a taste for the finer things in life, and increased affluence means that most of us can afford to keep them in the manner to which they’ve become accustomed.

8        Liz and her husband stretched themselves to their financial limits to send their daughter Amy to public school. They have discovered that the fees are just the tip of the iceberg<sup>8</sup>.

9        “We, as well as Amy, are very conscious that most of her classmates are better off, because she often talks about friends who have weekend cottages in the country,” says Liz. “It is a struggle, but having placed her in that environment, we feel it our duty to ensure that she can keep up with the others,

go on the ski trips and have the same gear as the other girls. She's not spoilt, we just want her to do well, and if that means we have to do without holidays or a new car, then it's worth it."

10 Self-sacrifice has always been part and parcel of<sup>9</sup> parenthood, and we even take a perverse pride in it. Just talk to the mother who boasts how she never buys any new clothes, while her kids are dressed in this season's fashions.

11 Those annual surveys estimating that it costs around £180,000 to bring up a child to the age of 21 don't appear to put us off procreating. But increasingly, questions are being raised about the effects of child-centered parenting. So much emphasis is on empathizing with our children; could it be that we're storing up problems for later?

12 "Middle-class parents bend over backwards<sup>10</sup> to give their children choices from the time they are babies," says Julia. "We ask them if they want yogurt or cheese and which color spoon they would prefer. We encourage them to have opinions. Then we throw up our hands in horror when we end up with a stropky 12-year-old who has a mind of his own. We empathize with them, which is great, but there's a flipside — if we're too close to our children then we feel their pain when they really want that new iPod<sup>11</sup>, and it's very hard to say 'no'. Most parents don't want to provoke a confrontation. I know I'm as much of a soft touch as the next parent.<sup>12</sup>"

13 Guilt is also a prime motivator among dual-income couples who find themselves caught in a catch-22<sup>13</sup> situation. They both work all hours to service the mortgage, school fees and family holidays. Then they feel guilty about never being there for the kids, and so assuage their guilt by lavishing their children with even more clothes and consumer durables<sup>14</sup>.

14 The idea of a family unit is a myth. Working couples have very little disposable time for each other, or their children, so when the kids are younger they outsource them to nannies or childminders, and when they're older, they feel guilty and buy them off by indulging them and never asking anything in return. By the time they're teenagers, kids see their peer group as their new family and have little loyalty to their parents.

15 The fallout to all this is already with us. The anti-bullying charity Kidscape has identified the disturbing emergence of spoilt middle-class monsters who make other children's lives hell.<sup>15</sup> These "brat bullies" are too

shrewd to engage in physical violence, and instead target their victims using text and e-mail. Casting forward a few years<sup>16</sup>, the Generation Y<sup>17</sup>, aged 16 to 27, is also turning out to be a tricky bunch. Having grown up questioning their parents, they now question their employers, are terminally self-absorbed and show little respect.

16        A recent survey of employers revealed employers' despair at the lack of interpersonal skills, even among graduates with top-class degrees. Graduate vacancies remain unfilled because increasing numbers of young people are unable to answer phones politely, interact respectfully with colleagues or grasp the fact that they will have to perform tasks they consider beneath them<sup>18</sup>.

17        Some young people have been so pampered they can't stick at a job when things get tough. They have no experience of knuckling down to<sup>19</sup> household chores and pulling their weight<sup>20</sup>, because their parents did everything for them.

18        Overindulgence tends to start in the cradle. That being the smartest, state-of-the-art cradle money can buy.<sup>21</sup> There's an unmistakable element of social competitiveness and "keeping up with the Joneses<sup>22</sup>", when we dress our young children in cashmere, and shower them with expensive toys and our teenagers the whizziest gadgets money can buy.

19        Whether a wardrobe crammed full of Armani Baby<sup>23</sup> guarantees adult happiness is a moot point<sup>24</sup>. Parents shouldn't be too hard on themselves. It isn't really the parents' fault. There's so much pressure on them to ensure their children succeed in life from an early age. They are constantly told that however well or badly their child does at school, it's all down to the parenting they received. As the years go by, the stakes get higher, until they've invested so much in them that family life revolves round the children.

20        "Adults have to take responsibility for setting boundaries and sticking to them," says Allison Mitchell. "Parents come to me in despair because their children are constantly demanding stuff and the adult is struggling with discipline. We're more affluent these days so we can give our kids things we never had, but that means they have no concept of saving up or of striving for anything. It's easier to say "yes" to that expensive new mobile phone your child wants, rather than waiting for their birthday, or suggesting they earn the money to pay for it themselves, but I get the parent to sit down, close their eyes

and visualize the consequences of saying “yes” to a mobile. They can see that in a week’s time a fresh demand for something else will come, and they wonder where it will end.”

- 21        Parenthood has become a life sentence. You’ve made things so comfortable for your kids that just when you thought you could retire and travel the world and spend some money on yourself, your 35-year-old son comes back and expects Mummy and Daddy to look after him again.

*(1,459 words)*

## Words and Expressions

<b>brat</b> /bræt/ <i>n.</i>	a badly behaved child
<b>kit</b> /kit/ <i>vt.</i>	to provide the clothes or equipment needed for an activity
<b>accessory</b> /ək'sesəri/ <i>n.</i>	sth. such as a bag, belt, or jewelry that one wears or carries because it is attractive
<b>upgrade</b> /'ʌpgreɪd/ <i>n.</i>	sth. done to the computer system that makes it better or able to do more, which involves buying a lot of new equipment
<b>gratification</b> /,grætɪfɪ'keɪʃən/ <i>n.</i>	pleasure or satisfaction
<b>byword</b> /'baɪwɜːd/ <i>n.</i>	a word, phrase, or saying that is very well known
<b>pampered</b> /'pæmpəd/ <i>adj.</i>	being treated with excessive indulgence
<b>recoil</b> /rɪ'kɔɪl/ <i>v.</i>	to feel such a strong dislike of a particular situation that one wants to avoid it
<b>pushover</b> /'pʊʃəʊvə/ <i>n.</i>	sb. who is easily persuaded, deceived, or defeated
<b>parenting</b> /'perəntɪŋ/ <i>n.</i>	the skill or activity of looking after your own children
<b>disservice</b> /dɪs'sɜːvɪs/ <i>n.</i>	an action that causes harm or difficulty
<b>disciplinarian</b> /,dɪsɪplɪ'neəriən/ <i>adj.</i>	relating to the punishment of sb. who has not obeyed rules, or to trying to make people obey rules
<b>underage</b> /ˌʌndər'eɪdʒ/ <i>adj.</i>	below the legal or required age for sth.
<b>despot</b> /'despɒt/ <i>n.</i>	sb. who acts in a tyrannical way towards people
<b>lounge</b> /laʊndʒ/ <i>v.</i>	to stand, sit, or lie in a lazy or relaxed way
<b>tantrum</b> /'tæntɹəm/ <i>n.</i>	a sudden short period when sb., esp. a child, behaves very angrily and unreasonably
<b>lackey</b> /'lækɪ/ <i>n.</i>	sb. excessively willing to obey another's orders
<b>livid</b> /'lɪvɪd/ <i>adj.</i>	extremely angry
<b>perverse</b> /pə'vɜːs/ <i>adj.</i>	behaving in an unreasonable way, esp. by deliberately doing the opposite of what people want you to do
<b>procreate</b> /'prəʊkriet/ <i>v.</i>	to produce children
<b>empathize</b> /'empəθaɪz/ <i>v.</i>	to be able to understand sb. else's feelings, problems, etc, esp. because one has had similar experiences
<b>flipside</b> /'flɪpsaɪd/ <i>n.</i>	the disadvantages
<b>stroppy</b> /'strɒpi/ <i>adj.</i>	bad-tempered and easily offended or annoyed
<b>assuage</b> /əs'weɪdʒ/ <i>v.</i>	to make an unpleasant feeling less painful or severe
<b>lavish</b> /'lævɪʃ/ <i>v.</i>	to give sb. or sth. a lot of love, praise, money, etc.
<b>disposable</b> /dɪ'spəʊzəbl/ <i>adj.</i>	available to be used
<b>outsource</b> /'aʊtsɔːs/ <i>vt.</i>	to acquire services from an outside source
<b>fallout</b> /'fɔːlaʊt/ <i>n.</i>	the results of a particular event, esp. when they are unexpected
<b>shrewd</b> /ʃruːd/ <i>adj.</i>	good at judging what people or situations are really like
<b>terminally</b> /'tɜːmɪnəli/ <i>adv.</i>	at the very end
<b>self-absorbed</b> /,selfəb'sɔːbd/ <i>adj.</i>	interested only in oneself and the things that affect him or her
<b>cashmere</b> /'kæʃmɪə(r)/ <i>n.</i>	a type of fine soft wool
<b>whizzy</b> /'wɪzi/ <i>adj.</i>	glitzy; overly flashy; more style than substance

- 1 **About the author** Judith Woods is a freelance writer with a particular interest in health and nutrition. She has written for *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Sunday Times*, *Harpers & Queen* and *The Scotsman*.
- 2 **pester power (Para. 1)** the ability that children have to make their parents buy things or do things for them by asking them again and again
- 3 **Welcome to the pampered existence of today's children, a place where pester power rules and parents are milked like cash cows. (Para. 1)** Let's discuss the issue of the overindulgence of today's children, who repeatedly make their parents buy things or do things for them and whose parents are exploited as a steady, dependable source of money.
- 4 **to be handed to them on a plate (Para. 2)** To hand somebody something on a plate is to let someone get or achieve something easily, without much effort from them.
- 5 **middle-class (Para. 4)** This term is generally interchangeable with the term *bourgeoisie*, which is rarely used except by economic historians. In modern society the middle-class group is composed of professionals, white-collar workers, farmers, and the like.
- 6 **tantrum (Para. 5)** a common form of aggression in young children. Psychologists define aggression as angry, hostile behavior that is intended to hurt or upset others. Such behavior in young children can result from frustration. Children may feel frustrated if their demands are not met or if their feelings of worthiness and self-respect are threatened. If the anger is intense, it may erupt into a tantrum.
- 7 **In Britain, we tend to have a houseful of underage despots, lounging inconsiderately across every sofa, throwing tantrums when the latest must-have accessory is denied them, and treating their parents as little more than lackeys. (Para. 5)** In Britain, there are many spoilt brats, who are too used to leaving household chores to their parents and becoming aggressive when expensive and fashionable things are denied them, and treating their parents just as servants.
- 8 **the tip of the iceberg (Para. 8)** a small sign of a problem that is much larger  
The reported cases of food poisoning are only *the tip of the iceberg*.
- 9 **be part and parcel of something (Para. 10)** to be a necessary feature of something  
Working irregular hours is all *part and parcel* of being a journalist.

- 10 bend over backwards (to do something) (Para. 12)** to try very hard to be helpful  
We *bent over backwards* to finish it on time.
- 11 iPod (Para. 12)** a small piece of electronic equipment for playing music, made by the Apple computer company
- 12 I know I'm as much of a soft touch as the next parent. (Para. 12)** I know I'm as much of a parent who is easily persuaded or taken advantage of as any other parent.
- 13 catch-22 (Para. 13)** “Catch-22” is a famous war novel by the American author Joseph Heller, published in 1961. The title of the novel comes from an obscure military regulation, known as “Catch-22,” invented by Heller. The expression *Catch-22* has entered the English language as a term for an impossible situation that you cannot solve because you need to do one thing in order to do a second thing, but you cannot do the second thing until you have done the first:  
It's a *catch-22* situation — without experience you can't get a job and without a job you can't get experience.
- 14 consumer durables (Para. 13)** large things such as cars, televisions, and furniture, that you do not buy often
- 15 The anti-bullying charity Kidscape has identified the disturbing emergence of spoilt middle-class monsters who make other children's lives hell. (Para. 15)** The anti-bullying charity Kidscape has identified the worrying rise of a new breed of middle-class brat bullies who subtly victimise other children.
- 16 cast forward a few years (Para. 15)** try to predict something that will happen in the years to come
- 17 Generation Y (Para. 15)** the population group in the US born from somewhere around 1976 to around 2000. They are sometimes called *echo boomers* because some of them are the children of baby boomers. On the other hand, some Generation Y children, especially those born in the late 1980s or afterwards, may be the grandchildren of baby boomers. Other names for this group are the *Millennials*, the Internet Generation, and the abbreviated Gen Y or Gen Yers.
- 18 tasks they consider beneath them (Para. 16)** tasks that they think to be of a low status or not good enough for them to do



- 19** **knuckle down to (Para. 17)** to get down to  
He is clearly ready to *knuckle down to* the task.
- 20** **pull one's weight (Para. 17)** do one's full share of work  
He accused me of not *pulling my weight*.
- 21** **Overindulgence tends to start in the cradle. That being the smartest, state-of-the-art cradle money can buy. (Para. 18)** Overindulgence often starts in early childhood. Parents tend to lavish expensive and fashionable things on their children to give them a better start in an increasingly competitive world. "That being the smartest, state-of-the-art cradle money can buy" is a sentence fragment, placed here to emphasize the exclusive nature of this type of cradle. It means that parents' practice of overindulgence towards children from infancy through teenage all involves spending money, which has become the most fashionable and popular exercise.  
state-of-the-art: using the most modern and recently developed methods, materials, or knowledge  
The movie was made with *state-of-the-art* computer graphics.
- 22** **keep up with the Joneses (Para. 18)** to try to have the same new, impressive possessions that other people have  
Consumers are also using credit liberally in their drive to *keep up with the Joneses*.
- 23** **Armani Baby (Para. 19)** Armani Baby, one of the many specialized sub-labels of Armani, is a trade name for children's clothes produced by the Italian fashion company Giorgio Armani. Armani is one of the most popular luxury brands in the world.
- 24** **a moot point (Para. 19)** something that has not yet been decided or agreed, and about which people have different opinions  
Whether these controls will really reduce violent crime is *a moot point*.

## Text comprehension

### I. Decide which of the following best states the author's purpose.

- A Today's children are asking so much from their parents, which they can hardly afford.
- B The idea of a family unit is a myth.
- C Parents take a pride in their self-sacrifice, which has always been part and parcel of parenthood.
- D Overindulgence may lead to a grave disservice to the younger generation.

### II Judge, according to the text, whether the following statements are true or false.

- |   | true                     | false                    |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 We are sending out to our children the message that they should expect the things they want in life to be readily handed to them.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 According to a recent survey, it will cost a teenager about £229 to groom and equip himself.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 An undesirable consequence of encouraging children to have their own opinions is that a stropky 12-year-old has a mind of his or her own.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Having grown up with little loyalty to their parents in the family, the indulged and terminally self-absorbed youngsters are now having little respect to their employers in society. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 According to a recent survey of employers, vacancies remain unfilled because an increasing number of young people are unable to answer phones politely.                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 As our bets on our children grow larger and what is at risk greater, our family life inevitably comes to revolve round them.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### **III Answer the following questions.**

- 1 What are some middle-class parents that were themselves brought up in a very disciplinarian way determined to do?
- 2 How does Gary feel about his son's behavior? Why?
- 3 Why does the author cite the examples of Gary and Liz?
- 4 Why do dual-income couples feel guilty even though they work all hours to service the mortgage, school fees and family holidays? And how do they usually moderate their guilt?
- 5 What does the author imply by "The idea of a family unit is a myth"?
- 6 To what extent can people say parenthood has become a life sentence?

### **IV Explain in your own words the following sentences taken from the text.**

- 1 Our pushover parenting is doing more harm than good.
- 2 They have discovered that the fees are just the tip of the iceberg.
- 3 Whether a wardrobe crammed full of Armani Baby guarantees adult happiness is a moot point.
- 4 Our children believe that they are entitled to the same rights as grown-ups, but they are not yet ready to accept grown-up responsibilities.
- 5 Most parents don't want to provoke a confrontation. I know I'm as much of a soft touch as the next parent.

## Writing strategies

This text, an argumentation, deals with the issue of how to bring up a new generation of people in the early 21st century, to satisfy all their demands or to think before saying yes to their requests. The textual structure is characterized by cause and effect analysis. The first three paragraphs describe the high expenditure of spoilt brats nowadays, which is a very good attention-getter, and how parents are tolerant with their kids. Paragraphs 4–9, with concrete examples and specific figures, display in detail the overindulged life of modern children. Then paragraphs 10–14 probe further into the reasons of parents' overindulgence from psychological and sociological perspectives. For the purpose of making the parents aware of the seriousness of spoilt brats, the text also displays the worrisome results of overindulgence based on surveys in society from paragraphs 15–19. In paragraphs 20–21, quotations from parents and experts are cited to substantiate the argumentation. And finally, the text gloomily states that parenthood may well be a lifelong burden. Find some examples of metaphor or simile in this text.

## Language work

### I Explain the underlined part in each sentence in your own words.

- 1 Welcome to the pampered existence of today's children ...
- 2 ... and sometimes taking the path of least resistance seems easier.
- 3 They have discovered that the fees are just the tip of the iceberg.
- 4 Liz and her husband Eric stretched themselves to their financial limits to send their 12-year-old daughter Amy to public school.
- 5 Those annual surveys estimating that it costs around £180,000 to bring up a child to the age of 21 don't appear to put us off procreating.
- 6 Middle-class parents bend over backwards to give their children choices from the time they are babies.
- 7 Then we throw up our hands in horror when we end up with a stropky 12-year-old who has a mind of his or her own.
- 8 Parenthood has become a life sentence.

### II Fill in each blank with one of the two words from each pair in their appropriate forms and note the difference of meaning between them.

*pamper*

*indulge*

- 1 "I just want a man to cuddle me, ..... me. Look, sweetheart, you know what you want from love."
- 2 Grandparents tend to ..... children too much to the degree of undermining parental discipline.
- 3 But he's got a secret vice he hasn't ..... in for years: house-breaking, which started as an adolescent trick and turned into an obsession.
- 4 Affective soap combined with mild hair and body wash made up this selected set, allowing you to truly ..... yourself literally from head to toe.

*recoil*

*retreat*

- 1 Gruzni's residents have ..... to the basement shelters as Russian troops began to shell the city outskirts.

- 2 She ..... at the number of young girls who had to live by selling their bodies.
- 3 They were killed by ..... US soldiers on explicit orders, based on the suspicion that the civilians were harbouring enemy soldiers.
- 4 Never stand in line with a rope under tension, such a rope particularly nylon rope, may .....

*ensure*

*assure*

- 1 I ..... the President that in this country we will work hard to ..... that the refugees will go freely to their places.
- 2 After nearly 20 hours of terror, the people of Tokaimura were ..... that the immediate danger from the uncontrolled nuclear chain reaction had ended.
- 3 A prosperous China is necessary to ..... stability not only at home but also beyond our borders.
- 4 The treaty aims to ..... that each superpower is vulnerable to attack.

*sympathize*

*empathize*

- 1 The judiciary chief said the authorities ..... with the students, for he believed that the students were not responsible for the event in the dormitories.
- 2 No two humans ever communicated to the fullest extent if they did not ..... with the mind of the other.
- 3 He would ....., but wouldn't understand.
- 4 One of the messages of today's youth to us over 30 is that you have to ..... and get with what's happening.

**III Fill in the blank in each sentence with a word or phrase taken from the box, using its appropriate form.**

*despot | procreate | provoke | lavish | disposable | indulge  
appall | backlash | trainer | accessory | disciplinarian | lackey*

- 1 We find that the ..... is often more despicable than his boss.

- 2 Could you imagine that she spent lots of money on the .....  
rather than the car itself?
- 3 The economic polarization has produced a strong ..... among  
the unemployed and the university graduates that could not find jobs.
- 4 The young man was ..... with flowers, gifts, and dinners for  
his girlfriend.
- 5 I don't think that John used such strong language without .....
- 6 For such rampant bribery and embezzlement, ..... measure  
must be taken; otherwise, our society will become unstable.
- 7 Finally the students complained to the headmaster about their .....  
teacher that always resorted to physical abuses.
- 8 Many people were upset by that ..... news that the young  
man could have sexually enslaved six women for two years.

**IV** *Make a sentence of your own for each of the given words with meanings other than those used in the text. You may change the part of speech of these words.*

- 1 upgrade  
.....
- 2 gratification  
.....
- 3 empathize  
.....
- 4 tricky  
.....
- 5 perverse  
.....
- 6 terminally  
.....
- 7 confrontation  
.....
- 8 affluence  
.....

**V Transform the following sentences by reducing the finite clauses (in italics) into non-finite clauses. Make other changes where necessary.**

- 1 She stood up *so that she could be seen better*.
- 2 *If you should hear him talk*, you would think he was a celebrity.
- 3 He felt ashamed *that he had done so little*.
- 4 We shall never make it *if we don't hurry*.
- 5 Here' something *that you can do while you were waiting*.
- 6 We ask *that every citizen watch closely any development in this matter*.
- 7 *While I was waiting at the dentist's*, I read the whole story.
- 8 I feel it to be a rare occasion, *since it occurs only once in many years*.

**VI Put a word in each blank that is appropriate for the context.**

The most fundamental kind of love, which underlines all types of love is brotherly love. By this I mean the sense of responsibility, care, respect, knowledge of any other human (1) ....., and so on. Brotherly love is love for all human beings; it is characterized by its very lack of exclusiveness. (2) ..... I have developed the capacity for love, then I cannot (3) ..... loving my brothers. In brotherly love there is the experience of union with all men, of human solidarity. Brotherly love is based on the experience (4) ..... we all are one. The differences in talents, intelligence, and knowledge are negligible in (5) ..... with the identity of the human core common to all men.

Brotherly love is love (6) ..... equals: but, indeed, even as equals we are not always "equal"; insomuch as we are human, we are all in need of help. (7) ..... this need of help does not mean that one is helpless, the (8) ..... powerful. Helpless is a transitory condition; the ability to stand and walk on one's own (9) ..... is the permanent and common (10) .....



## Translation

### I Translate each of the following sentences into English, using the words or expressions given in brackets.

- 1 磋商了一个月，劳资双方就薪金事宜仍没有达成基本的准则。(the ground rules)
- 2 同学们全远远地避开他，因为他父亲充当了侵略者的走狗。(lackey)
- 3 我真弄不明白，他花那么多时间玩电脑游戏，学习上却仍能获得高分。(lavish)
- 4 现在有些店家似乎忘记了服务的宗旨：“顾客至上，质量第一”。(byword)
- 5 过多的一次性产品导致了环境保护中的严重问题。(disposable)
- 6 两国边界上的冲突最终引发了一场大规模的战争。(spark off)
- 7 他供认收取学生家长的钱只不过是收受贿赂的冰山一角。(the tip of the iceberg)
- 8 这个小伙子，看上去挺有能力，却最终因为过于考虑自己的利益而不受同伴们的欢迎。(self-absorbed)

### II Translate the following into Chinese.

Education is not an end, but a means to an end. In other words, we do not educate children only for the purpose of educating them; our purpose is to fit them for life. As soon as we realize this fact, we will understand that it is very important to choose a system of education which will really prepare children for life. It is not enough just to choose the first system of education one finds, or to continue with one's old system of education without examining it to see whether it is in fact suitable or not. Therefore, it is believed that everybody probably needs two educations: one to teach us how to make a living and the other to teach us how to live.

## Oral Activities

### Giving a talk

The upbringing of children is no longer a domestic problem only, but a social issue, which deserves everyone's attention. You are college students on the threshold of adulthood. Probably you have enjoyed and are still enjoying meticulous care by your parents. Their attention to you must have produced some negative impact on you. What remedial measures do you think can be taken to overcome the disadvantages resulting from this kind of child-rearing? You could probably begin your

talk with “I am the only son of my father, who was the eldest of six children of his generation. Then you can well imagine how happy my grandfather was when I came to this world. ... ”

### ***Having a discussion***

Partly as a result of the “One Couple, One Child” policy, the young people born in the late 1980s and 1990s in China are accustomed to being the center of attention in their families. More often than not, they are ready to take rather than to give. Have a discussion about some feasible ways to alter many, if not all, young people’s take-and-give attitude toward others with some concrete suggestions.

## **Writing**

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***Write a book review on a book you have recently read. Your review should include the following suggestions.***

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- *Introduction of the book:* title, author, copyright date, type of book, general subject matter
- *Summary of the book:*
  - 1) length: one hundredth to one-thousandth of the original
  - 2) content: all the important points so that the reader of the summary can get a full and clear idea of the original without referring to the original
  - 3) language: in your own words, not a patchwork made up of phrases and sentences quoted from the original passage
- *Your comments on the book:* your own interpretation of the merits and demerits of the book, the social and historical significance of the book, the author’s style and techniques of writing ...