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Teenage rebellion

Discussion

Look at this questionnaire about what you, and people you know, did, or do, as teenagers. Tick the appropriate boxes.

| You | A friend | Someone in your family | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | wore an earring or earrings. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | wore rings on other parts of their body. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | always wore black. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | wore very unusual clothes. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | had an unusual hairstyle. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | started smoking before they were 14. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | dropped out of school or college. |

Compare your answers in pairs. In what other ways do young people express rebellion?

Reading

1. Read the following news item which appeared in *The Daily Telegraph*. Discuss the questions below in pairs:

Schoolgirl Ashley Wallace, 16, was furious when the headmaster of her school, Neil Watts, 50, ordered the school's photographers to change the colour of her hair from pink to brown in the final prints of the official school photographs.

- Why do you think the headmaster wanted the colour of Ashley's hair changed?
- Why do you think Ashley was furious?
- Why do you think Ashley dyed her hair pink?

2. Now read the views of Ashley and the headmaster and answer the questions below.

ASHLEY'S VIEW

I couldn't believe it when I realised what they had done to me. I was so annoyed that I went straight to the headmaster and complained. My hair was a mousy brown and it looked ridiculous because you could still see all the pink through it. All of my friends were asking what I had done to my hair. I was just fuming. The school should have given me the option either to be in the photo and have my hair airbrushed or not be in it. If I had been given the choice, I would rather not have been in it at all. One thing is certain – there is no way I am going to change my hair colour now!

THE HEADMASTER'S VIEW

We have been trying to resolve the issue of Ashley's pink hair since before Christmas. Initially, we were assured that she would return it to the natural colour over the holiday but since Christmas her hair has remained pink. Our code of conduct clearly states that pupils are expected to bring credit upon themselves by their appearance and we do not feel that pink hair fulfils this requirement. Despite this we have acted very reasonably. We have not excluded Ashley from school and we have allowed her to attend normal lessons in the final year of her exams. We also allowed her to be in the photograph for the whole year group. However, we feel strongly that, as the photograph is a record for the school, Ashley's hair colour does not bring credit upon the other pupils and the school. Therefore, we asked the photographic company to tone down the hair colour in the photograph.

- Why was Ashley furious?
- What did she think the school should have done?
- How long had Ashley had pink hair?
- How did the headmaster feel about her hair?
- In what ways did he feel the school had been reasonable towards her?

Discussion

Discuss these questions in pairs or small groups:

- Who do you think is right – Ashley or the headmaster? Why?
- Are there any better solutions to the problem of Ashley's hair? What are they?
- If a 16-year-old arrived at school one morning with pink hair in your country: what would her friends say? what would her teachers say? what would the headteacher say?

Language

1. Ashley uses quite informal language. Find the informal expressions she uses to say these more formal phrases:

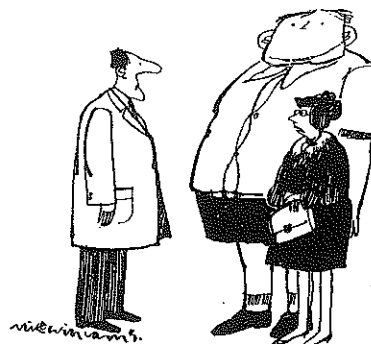
- I sought an immediate meeting with the head.*
- I was extremely upset.*
- I have no intention of ...*

2. Find the more formal expressions the head uses to say these less formal phrases:

- We've been trying to sort out ...*
- First, we were told ...*
- pupils ought to show a bit of self-respect ...*
- We haven't thrown Ashley out of the school. ... we've let her come to school as usual ...*

3. Put these sentences into more formal English:

- I was so cross that he did not sort out the problem of the timetable.
- There's no way I'm going to let him into my classes again.
- I'm going straight to the boss.
- We've decided that your son should not come back to this school.
- First, I'd like to make it clear to you that classes will take place as normal.



"I think he's swallowed his father."

Discussion

Discuss these situations in pairs:

- Jessica wears old black clothes all the time. She has rings in her ears and her eyebrows. She has dyed her hair black and uses black eye make-up. Her brother is getting married soon. Her mother wants her to wear something different for the wedding. Should she? And if so, what?
- You have invited your neighbours and their children to a party at your house. Their 15-year-old son arrives wearing shorts, black tights, an orange T-shirt and has a number of chains round different parts of his body. Should you say anything about the way he is dressed? If so, what?
- Mark's 18-year-old son usually has shoulder-length hair. Mark has insisted that he gets it cut before a family wedding. He arrives at the church with short hair – dyed bright green. What should Mark say or do?

4. Jenny is 16 and gets good results at school. She wants to leave school at the end of term, get a job (any job will do), and move into a flat with three of her girlfriends. Should her parents persuade her to stay on at school? If so, how?

5. Mary accidentally finds cigarettes and beer hidden in her 14-year-old daughter's bedroom. Should she say anything to her? If so, what?

Have these or any similar situations happened to you or anyone you know?

Compare your answers with other groups.

Protest

Some forms of popular music are influential in shaping teenagers' opinions. Look at these quotations and discuss the questions:

'Your sons and your daughters are beyond your command. Your old road is rapidly agin'.
(Bob Dylan, *The Times They Are A-changin'*, 1964.)

Are these lines relevant today?
Do all teenagers rebel against their parents?
Do you know any who haven't?

'If I'm more of an influence to your son as a rapper than you are as a father, you got to look to yourself as a parent.'
(Ice Cube, in an interview in 1990.)

Do you agree with this or not? Why?
Is there anything parents can do to stop their teenage children rebelling?

Incredible stories

Discussion

Work in small groups. Discuss these questions:

1. What is the most extraordinary true story you have heard or read recently?
2. Who was involved and what happened?

Compare your answers with other groups.

Reading

Read the stories below. Six are true and two are false. Decide with a partner which are which.

MAN EVICTED

A German man was evicted from his flat in Berlin because he laughed too much and too loudly. Rudi Bauer, 52, was forced to leave his home after neighbours complained.

NEW UNIVERSITY COURSES

New degree courses on offer at some of Britain's universities include: golf at Birmingham, theology and water resources at Oxford Brookes, philosophy and waste management at Northampton University College, and watersports studies at Southampton Institute.

PEA SHOOTING CONTROVERSY

This year's World Pea Shooting Championships – contestants shoot dried peas at a soft clay target – take place in Witcam, Cambridgeshire. It is hoped there will not be a repetition of last year's controversy when the winner used a laser guidance system.

TALKING WASHING MACHINES

Electrolux has just announced the launch of its first talking washing machine, which has gone on sale in India. The company is also developing a cooker which will learn how cooks like to cook their food.

FREE SEX CHANGE

The city of San Francisco has decided to provide free sex change operations for employees who have worked for the city for at least one year. Opponents say the measure will just encourage people to apply for jobs with the city in order to get a free sex change.

STUCK IN THE AIR

A woman on a Scandinavian Airlines flight became stuck to a lavatory seat when she used the vacuum flush while still seated. She was freed when the plane landed.

SAVE THE BEST TILL LAST

Most people think that an index is a boring, but sometimes useful, bit at the back of a book. But it is much more than that. The British Library has just published a collection of the 71 best indexes of all time – from 1427 to the present day.

BACK INTO THE RECORDS

Grant Melville, 45, has walked into the record books backwards! He climbed Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Britain, making the whole ascent backwards. The climb and descent took 15 hours 37 minutes.

Discussion

Discuss these questions in small groups:

1. Which story do you find most extraordinary? Why?
2. Do any similar things happen in your country? For example, have people been evicted from their homes for unusual reasons? Are there any university courses you consider strange? Are there any unusual world championships held in your country?
3. Think about the people involved in each story. What do you think are the reasons behind their actions?

Language 1

1. Complete the table below with words from the texts above:

| VERB | NOUN |
|---------|------------|
| manage | management |
| contest | |
| repeat | |
| guide | |
| launch | |
| operate | |
| oppose | |
| collect | |
| ascend | |
| descend | |

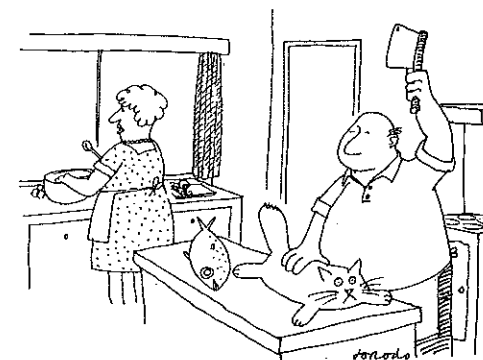
2. Think of other nouns, as well as the words from the text, which could go in the second column.

Language 2

Complete the text below using the correct forms of words from the exercise above:

SECOND VICTORY FOR LANCASHIRE

This year's hill climbing (1) between the University of South Yorkshire and Lancashire College of Education took place last Saturday at Whernside. Teams from each university were expected to complete the (2) and (3) of both Whernside and Ingleborough, (4) badges from a number of checkpoints on the way. Lancashire College of Education (5) last year's success, winning by four minutes. Alex Bolton, (6) of the Lancashire team, said afterwards: "We would like to congratulate our (7) on a hard fought race. It was a narrow victory. We would also like to thank our coach, Helen Wright, whose (8) and support has been an important factor in our victory."



"And don't forget your optician's appointment."

A healthy lifestyle

Discussion

Put a tick (✓) by the things that you think are good for your health and a cross (x) by the things you think are bad for your health.

| | | | | | |
|---------------|------|---------|------------|--------|------------------|
| eating meat | yoga | crisps | smoking | sugar | watching TV |
| living alone | tea | alcohol | running | coffee | vitamin pills |
| keeping a pet | salt | flying | sunbathing | stress | being vegetarian |

Compare your results in pairs or small groups.

Reading

Read the two letters and answer these questions:

- Which writer a) follows the doctor's advice?
b) thinks the doctor could give better advice?

Dear Doctor

I read your newspaper column every week and, frankly, I think you've got it wrong. It's not being healthy that makes us happy, it's the other way round.

If someone is happy and enjoying themselves and taking pleasure out of life, then they are going to be healthy. Recent research shows that people who feel little or no guilt about their lifestyle have less heart trouble, go to the doctor less often, and get ill less often. In other words, it's not so much what we do as how we feel about it.

As a result, I think you should stop telling people what is bad for them, what they shouldn't eat and where they're going wrong with their lives. You should be encouraging people to feel good about themselves, be positive, worry less and do what they want.

Andrew C, (Newcastle)

Dear Doctor

I always find your column very interesting. Over the years you have given me very useful advice about how to live a healthy life.

However, sometimes I wonder how many people follow your advice. There must be a lot of people who smoke and drink too much, who eat too much sugar and salt and fat, and who generally have a very unhealthy lifestyle.

Surely the government can do something about these people. They are costing our health service huge amounts of money. If they looked after themselves properly, they wouldn't need medical treatment so often.

Angela M, (Brighton)

True or false?

Mark these sentences T (true) or F (false):

- Andrew thinks health and happiness are not connected.
- He has done some research into the effect of happiness on health.
- He thinks the doctor should try to make people happier rather than healthier.
- Angela thinks a lot of people ignore the doctor's advice.
- She thinks the health service spends a lot of money on these people.
- She thinks the government should let them look after themselves rather than provide a health service for them.

Discussion

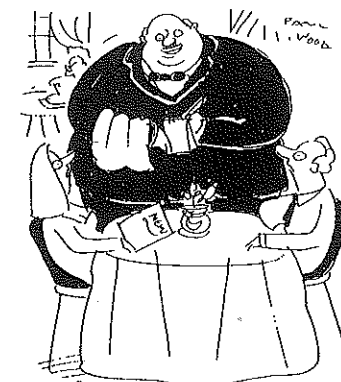
Discuss these questions in pairs or small groups:

- Who do you agree with most: Andrew or Angela? Both of them? Neither of them?
- What are the most important points that they make?
- To what extent do you 'look after yourself properly'?
- Do you eat the right food? Smoke? Drink? Take regular exercise?
- Do you consider yourself to be healthy?
- Do you consider yourself to be happy?
- Do you agree with Andrew that there is a connection between health and happiness?

Language

In 1, 2, and 3 there is one word which does not collocate well. Cross it out. Then use expressions from the box to fill the gaps in the sentences below:

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. Her health is | perfect. | excellent. | delicate. | major. | poor. |
| 2. She is | disgustingly | partially | reasonably | extremely | perfectly |
| 3. It's a healthy | environment. | climate. | bread. | diet. | lifestyle. |



"Actually, madam, I can recommend everything."

- I'm afraid my grandmother is in very She's almost 90.
- The dry climate of Switzerland makes it a very
- What a great tan! You're looking ! Where've you been?
- If you don't mind me saying, what you need is a - things like brown bread, fresh fruit, muesli, that kind of thing.
- My father's 75. He's got a few health problems, but nothing very serious. His health is for a man of his age.

Discussion

With a partner, make up a questionnaire to find out how healthy people are.

- First decide six questions.
- Think of three different answers for each question.
- Give marks for each answer.
- Decide what total of marks mean that people are healthy or unhealthy.
- Write some praise and/or advice for people based on their marks total.
- Interview one or two people and note their answers.
- Tell them how healthy you think they are.

When writing questions you might want to think about some of these areas:

people's diet - the kind of thing they eat
the amount of exercise they take
the amount of stress in their lives
whether they consider they are happy

their lifestyle - busy or laid-back
their own health over the past few years
their past family health history
whether they drink or smoke