

'The problem with upbringing'

Idioms:

Go to the Dogs

Have you seen their house lately? It's really gone to the dogs. It's true that it has **become run-down and in serious need of repair**, but I'm sure that it can be fixed up to look like new.

Fishy

When the security guard saw a light in the store after closing hours, it seemed to him that there was something fishy going on. He called the central office and explained to his superior that he thought **something strange and suspicious** was occurring.

Take the Bull by the Horns

Julie had always felt that she was missing out on a lot of fun because of her clumsiness on the dance floor. She had been putting off taking lessons, but she finally took the bull by the horns and went to a professional dance studio for help. She was tired of feeling left out and **acted decisively to correct the situation**.

Let the cat out of the Bag

Bob was going to retire from teaching in June, and the foreign language department was planning on presenting him with some luggage at his retirement dinner. He wasn't supposed to know about it, but someone let the cat out of the bag. At the dinner Bob acted surprised, even though someone **had told him what he was getting before the official presentation**.

For the Birds

They went to a poetry reading, but they got bored and restless. As far as they were concerned, it was for the birds! They left during an intermission because they found the reading **totally uninteresting and meaningless**.

Straight From the Horse's Mouth

- ⌚ A: How did you find out that Jill was engaged?
- ⌚ B: I got the **information from a very reliable source**.
- ⌚ A: You mean Jill told you so herself?
- ⌚ B: That's right. I got it straight from the horse's mouth!

Shoot Off One's Mouth

Jim doesn't play tennis very much, but he's always shooting off his mouth about how good he is. Yet he's fooling nobody. Jim is somewhat of a braggart and everyone knows that he gives opinions without knowing all the facts and **talks as if he knew everything** about the game.

Bite the Dust

Andy did exceptionally well in all of the track events, but he bit the dust in the high jump competition. Much to the disappointment of his fans, he **went down in defeat, losing to a competitor** from the visiting team.

Questions:

- 1) Are you good with children?
- 2) What do you think of the expression "children should be seen and not heard"?
- 3) When does a child become an adult?
- 4) What's the most irritating thing about children? Teenagers?
- 5) Do you think children/teenagers are spoiled nowadays?

- 6) Would you like your children to be like you? In what way? How?
- 7) How expensive is raising children till they are independent?
- 8) What do you think children worry about most?
- 9) Are children becoming more dangerous and violent? Why do you think so?
- 10) What do you think of child labour?
- 11) What comes to mind when you hear the word 'adolescence'?
- 12) What happens during adolescence?
- 13) Is adolescence viewed as a difficult time for children/young adults in your country?
- 14) What problems did you have in your adolescence? What problems do teenagers in Russia commonly have?
- 15) Did you worry about whether or not other people liked you? Why?
- 16) Did you rebel against your parents or teachers? Why?
- 17) When did you begin to feel like you were an adult? What sparked that feeling?
- 18) Are there any ceremonies or celebrations in your country to mark the entrance into adulthood?
- 19) What worries and fears did you have as an adolescent? What caused the onset of such worries?
- 20) Are young people generally more selfish than their parents and grandparents?
 - ⌚ Does age make you more aware of and caring for others?
- 21) Should adults try to teach young people lessons, such as the dangers of drinking too much, taking drugs or catch the AIDS virus, or should they leave them alone to find out about these things themselves?
 - ⌚ What are the advantages and disadvantages of both approaches?
- 22) What do you think is the best age to be?
 - ⌚ Explain your opinion.
- 23) Most countries give young people rights as they reach a certain age. For example, British people can drink, vote and drive a car when they are 18.
 - ⌚ Do you think that any of the age limits need changing?
- 24) Some people think you should give something to society before you have the right to join it.
 - ⌚ Should young people have to do some form of military or community service by law?
- 25) In most countries, compulsory education is targeted at five to sixteen year olds.
 - ⌚ Would it be better to offer it to pensioners who want to learn rather than young people who prefer not to be in school? Explain your opinion.
- 26) In most countries women live an average of five to six years longer than men. Why do you think this is?
- 27) In some countries having children is considered a way of "investing in the future", and young people are expected to give money to their parents when they get a job, and then to care for them when they retire.
 - ⌚ What are the good points and what are the bad points about this system?
- 28) Many countries are facing the problem of an "aging population", i.e. there will soon be more old people than young people.
 - ⌚ What problems will this cause?
 - ⌚ What can be done to prepare for them?
- 29) What age do you want to live to? Why? What age do you want to be at the moment?
- 30) Where do you see yourself when you are 70 years old?
- 31) Where do you wish to live when you are old?
- 32) Some people say that youth is a state of mind, do you agree?

Quotes:

- ⌚ You have to do your own growing no matter how tall your grandfather was. *Abraham Lincoln*
- ⌚ At the age of six I wanted to be a cook. At seven I wanted to be Napoleon. And my ambition has been growing steadily ever since. *Salvador Dali*
- ⌚ If you're gonna screw up, do it while you're young. Older you get, the harder it is to bounce back. *Winston Groom*
- ⌚ The day the child realizes that all adults are imperfect, he becomes an adolescent; the day he forgives them, he becomes an adult; the day he forgives himself, he becomes wise. *Alden Nowlan*
- ⌚ We grow neither better nor worse as we get old, but more like ourselves. *May Lamberton Becker*



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- ⌚ The key to growth is the introduction of higher dimensions of consciousness into our awareness. *Lao Tzu*
- ⌚ *A grownup is a child with layers on. Woody Harelson*