

Reading Part 2

- 1 Work in pairs. You will read an article giving advice to parents. Before you read, write these adjectives in the most appropriate column below.

critical	fussy	hard-working	mature	lazy
tactful	polite	quiet	nervous	responsible
relaxed	rude	sensitive	tactless	talkative
strict	tidy			

usually positive	usually negative	could be either
	<i>critical</i>	

- 2 Add one of these prefixes *un-*, *im-*, *ir-*, *in-* to each of these words to make opposites, e.g. *critical* – *uncritical*.

<i>critical</i>	<i>uncritical</i>	mature	tidy	responsible
sensitive	polite			

- 3 Match each of these words with its opposite, e.g. *hard-working* – *lazy*.

<i>hard-working</i>	tactful	polite	quiet	relaxed
rude	strict	lazy	tactless	talkative

- 4 Which of the adjectives above describe/described your parents' attitude to you as a teenager? Why? Which describe/described your attitude to your parents as a teenager? Why?

- 5 Work in small groups.

- Make a list of things that parents sometimes say about their teenage children, e.g. *He's so untidy! He's always leaving his clothes on the bathroom floor! She's very hard-working. She spends hours studying in her room.*
- What do you think parents can do to live happily with their teenage children? For example, *Listen to what their children say.*

- 6 Read the article quickly without paying attention to the gaps. Do you think Penny Palmano has a mostly positive or a mostly negative attitude to teenagers?

How to live with teenagers

There have been countless books and television series on living with teenagers, yet parents don't seem to have discovered how to get their children to pick up their clothes from the bedroom floor, or even clean their room occasionally. It might be difficult to accept, but a new approach to dealing with rude or difficult teenagers is for parents to look at their own behaviour.

"The key to getting teenagers to respect you is to respect them first," says Penny Palmano, who has written a best-selling book on teenagers. "You can't continue to treat them the same way that you have been treating them for the previous 12 years: they have opinions that count."

1 H You'd be very upset. You'd never say that to an adult, because it shows a total lack of respect."

Palmano, who has a daughter aged 19 and a 16-year-old stepdaughter, has even allowed the children to hold several teenage parties at her home. They passed without problems. "I've found that if you have brought them up to do the right thing, and then trust them to do it, usually they'll behave well," she says. "I make them sandwiches and leave them alone. But I make it clear that they have to clear up any mess."

2 She agrees that teenagers can be irritating: enjoying a world that is free of responsibility, yet desperate for independence. She doesn't think, however, that they are trying to annoy



you. Until recently, scientists assumed that the brain finished growing at about the age of 13 and that teenage problems were a result of rising hormones and a desire for independence. **3**

"This would explain why many teenagers can't make good decisions, control their emotions, prioritise or concentrate on several different things at the same time. **4** It means that they do not intentionally do the wrong thing just to annoy their parents," says Palmano.

The key to happiness for all, Palmano believes, is calm negotiation and compromise. If you want your teenagers to be home by 11 pm, explain why, but listen to their counter-arguments. If it's a Saturday, you might consider agreeing to midnight (rather than 1 am, which is what they had in mind). **5** Instead, ask if they've had a problem with public transport and let it pass; they've almost managed what you asked.

She urges a bit of perspective about other things, too. "There have been times when my daughter's room has not been as tidy as I expected, but as she said once, 'I'm a teenager – what do you expect?' **6**

"It's vital to choose your battles carefully: don't criticise teenagers for having an untidy room, then suddenly criticise them for other things. **7** One minute, it's about an untidy room and the next, you're saying, 'And another thing ...' and criticising them for everything."

Adapted from *The Daily Telegraph*



7 Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–H the one which fits each gap. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

- A** But it turns out that the region of the brain that controls judgement and emotions is not fully mature until the early twenties.
- B** If they are up to 20 minutes late, don't react angrily.
- C** For example, they may find it difficult to make the right decision between watching television, ringing a friend or finishing their homework.
- D** I'm not turning into a criminal, it's just clothes on the floor.
- E** Parents often complain that teenagers can be charming to people outside the home but irritating to their family.
- F** I've never had a problem; in fact, the kitchen was sometimes cleaner than I'd left it.
- G** On these occasions, parents tend to mention all the other things that they may or may not have done wrong.
- H** Imagine if you'd spent two hours getting ready to go out for the evening and someone said, 'You're not going out looking like that, are you?'

Exam information

In Reading Part 2, the text contains seven gaps. Following the text there is a list of eight possible sentences to fill the gaps.

You must choose the correct sentence for each gap; there is one sentence you will not need.

This task tests your understanding of the structure of the text and how the argument is developed.

- 8** Write down on a piece of paper three things teenagers do which their parents find annoying. Pass the paper to another student. Take turns to tell each other what parents should do to deal with the things that annoy them.