

Intermediate 1
Unit 4: Reading
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A Heart-to-Heart with Teenagers

heart-to-heart = a friendly talk

One minute they're being all friendly, the next minute they're shouting and screaming loudly enough for the whole street to hear. So what is it that turns a normal happy parent into a raging beast? You, probably!

They're being all friendly. = Their behavior is very friendly.

shout = yell; speak at the top of one's voice

scream = screech

whole = entire

the whole street = all the people on the street; all the neighbors

turn = change

raging = very angry

beast = a wild animal

If I have to tell you to pick those up one more time,

Is your room untidy? Do you leave things on the floor? You may find it hard enough to keep one room tidy, so imagine what it's like for your mom and dad trying to keep a whole house in order. As they're the ones who do the housework, they're entitled to moan if the other members of the family aren't doing their bit.

pick up = lift and remove

untidy ≠ tidy

tidy = in order

as = since, because

be entitled = to have sth as your right

be entitled to sth

➤ *We are entitled to freedom.*

be entitled to do sth

➤ *We are entitled to make our decisions freely.*

moan = complain; nag

do one's bit = do what one is responsible for

Get into the habit of hanging your clothes up when you take them off, putting dirty washing in the laundry basket, and taking glasses and plates down to the kitchen. It doesn't take that much effort, and before too long you'll be doing it without thinking.

effort = attempt; trying hard

No way can you have another pair of jeans. Do you think I am made of money?

Even though you may not realize it, your parents are probably quite sympathetic to the fact that you haven't had any new clothes for ages, while it seems that your friends are splashing

out right, left and center. But they're not buying themselves new things every week, are they? The simple truth is that there are more important things to spend money on, like the electricity bill and food.

no way = not at all

No way can you have another pair of jeans. = It is not possible at all for you to have another pair of jeans.

Proverb:

➤ *Money doesn't grow on trees.*



even though = although

realize = understand

sympathize = to understand the pain and suffering of other people

be sympathetic to sth = to understand sth

for ages = for a long time

- **While** = whereas

- **While** = when

splash out right, left and center = spend a lot of money

No, you can't go to Sharon party on Saturday night, we've got Auntie Pat and Uncle John coming around...

Although you may hate missing the party of the century to listen to some boring old relatives go on and on about what a sweet baby you were and how you've grown, you have no choice. Even if you moan, groan and sulk, your parents won't change their minds. Making the right impression is usually very important to parents who like to show off their family. In spite of your disappointment, the best thing you can do is to smile and help entertain your relatives. They'll be so pleased with you afterward that they'll probably let you go to the next two parties.

come around = stop by; visit somebody in his/her house

go on = continue

choice = option

groan = nag, moan

sulk = show unhappiness in your face

change one's mind = change one's decision

impression (n.) = mental impact

show off = boast

in spite of = despite

disappointment = being hopeless

- **entertain** = amuse

- **entertain** = welcome guests by serving them refreshments

afterward = later on

What do you mean you 're not hungry? It's taken me two hours to cook it, so you can sit there till you've eaten it.

Despite the fact that food is the furthest thing from your mind, think of it from the cook's point of view. If you cook two meals a day, it means 730 meals a year. Can you imagine how boring this can get? Although the cook may be fed up with it, she/he makes an effort. Imagine how the cook feels when you pull a face and say you don't fancy it or you're not really hungry. Not only that, your parents are probably anxious to see that you have a properly balanced diet. Then, of course, there's the sheer waste of money aspect. See why they get mad! Eat fewer snacks and leave room for your meals. Finally, offer to do the cooking every now and then. Your offer may not be accepted, but the cook will be delighted to receive a bit of appreciation.

till = until

point of View = viewpoint

be fed up with sb/sth = be tired of sb/sth

make an effort = try hard

pull a face = frown

fancy = like, want

anxious = worried

aspect = one part of a situation, problem, subject, etc.

sheer = only

get mad = get very angry

every now and then = sometimes

delighted = happy, pleased

appreciation = thankfulness

Main Ideas:

The Problems between Teenagers and their Parents

➤ Tidiness

Solution:

- Hang your clothes up when you take them off
- Put dirty washing in the laundry basket
- Take glasses and plates to the kitchen

➤ Money

Your parents know that you are in need of money.

But there are more important things to spend money on.

➤ Parties

Your parents don't sometimes let you go to a party with your friends.

At get-togethers, your parents want to show you off in front of your relatives.

Solution:

Make the right impression at get-togethers and entertain your relatives.

➤ Food

Cooking food is difficult and sometimes boring for your parents.

When you don't eat your food, it seems to them that you don't appreciate their hard work.

Your parents also want you to eat properly.

Food is expensive. Not eating food means wasting money.

Solution:

Eat fewer snacks and leave room for your meals.

Be thankful to your parents by helping them with the cooking.

Full Text:

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cooking every now and then. Your offer may not be accepted, but the cook will be delighted to receive a bit of appreciation.

Sample Summary:

The article “A Heart-to-Heart with Teenagers” addresses common conflicts between teenagers and their parents. It highlights how teenagers’ actions, like leaving a mess or asking for new clothes, can frustrate parents who are managing household responsibilities and finances. The article suggests that teenagers should contribute to housework, understand the value of money, and respect family commitments. It also emphasizes the importance of considering the effort parents put into cooking and the benefits of showing appreciation. By being more considerate and helpful, teenagers can improve their relationship with their parents and possibly earn more privileges.

Sample Summary:

The article talks about why parents and teenagers sometimes argue. It says that parents get upset when teenagers are messy or ask for things that cost money. Parents have a lot to do, like cleaning the house and paying bills. The article tells teenagers to help out at home, understand that money is important, and be nice to family even if they miss fun parties. It also says that parents work hard to make food, so teenagers should eat what’s made and say thank you. If teenagers are more thoughtful and help out, they can get along better with their parents and might be allowed to do more things they enjoy.

Source:

[Intermediate 1 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)