

Intermediate 2
Unit 8: Dialog
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Full Text:

A Top Priority

Paula hasn't finished her homework yet. She is nagging and comparing herself with her mother.

Paula: Did you use to have a lot of homework when you were at school, Mom?

Mom: Yeah. And I had to do it in a foreign language.

Paula: You used to live in Italy, didn't you?

Mom: That's right. When I was your age, I also used to study about sixteen subjects.

Paula: Sixteen! Did you have time for anything else?

Mom: Of course I did. It's just a question of organizing, you know.

Paula: You're right. I'd better get on with my homework, or I'll never finish.

Mom: I'm glad you understand that.

Vocabulary & Paraphrase:

A Top Priority

priority (noun) UK /praɪ'ɒr.ə.ti/ US /praɪ'ɔːr.ə.ti/ = something that is very important and must be dealt with before other things = main consideration, prime concern

- *Education is a top priority.*
- *Our first priority is to improve standards.*
- *National security is our top priority.*

prioritize (verb) UK /praɪ'ɒr.i.taɪz/ US /praɪ'ɔːr.ə.taɪz/ = to decide which of a group of things are the most important so that you can deal with them first

- *You should prioritize your goals in life.*
- *You should prioritize the subjects that you study at school.*
- *You must learn to prioritize your work.*

prioritization (noun) /praɪ'ɔːr.ə'ti'zeɪʃən/ = the act of prioritizing

- *There has to be a prioritization of projects.*

Paula hasn't finished her homework yet. She is nagging and comparing herself with her mother.

nag = complain about unimportant things; pester

compare = to examine or look for the difference between two or more things

compare somebody/something with somebody/something

- *We compared the results of our study with those of other studies.*

- *Compare some recent work with your older stuff and you'll see how much you've improved.*

Paula: Did you use to have a lot of homework when you were at school, Mom?

Mom: Yeah. And I had to do it in a foreign language.

Did you **use to** have ...? = Did you have ...?

Mom (American) = Mum (British)

Point:

In the following words, the letter “o” can be pronounced in two ways: /ɔ:/ or /ɒ/

- foreign
- forest
- orange
- florist

Paula: You used to live in Italy, didn't you?

Mom: That's right. When I was your age, I also used to study about sixteen subjects.

Paula's mom **used to** do her homework in a foreign language. = She did her homework in a foreign language, but now she doesn't.

Paula's mom **used to** live in Italy. = She lived in Italy in the past, but now she doesn't.

when I was your age = when I was as old as you

She **used to** study 16 subjects. = She studied 16 subjects in the past, but now she doesn't.

subject = an area of knowledge that is studied in school, college, or university:

- *My favorite subjects at school were history and English.*

Paula: Sixteen! Did you have time for anything else?

Mom: Of course I did. It's just a question of organizing, you know.

be a question of (doing) something = to be a matter depending on or involving a particular condition or thing

- *It is also often just a question of personal preference.*
- *It's just a question of organizing. = It only depends on organizing.*

organize = to do or arrange things, plans, ideas, etc., according to a particular system so that they can be used or understood easily

- *I am trying to organize my office so I can work more efficiently.*
- *He will need some help organizing his schedule for the coming month.*

Paula: You're right. I'd better get on with my homework, or I'll never finish.

Mom: I'm glad you understand that.

get on with = to start or continue doing something, especially work

- *Stop talking and get on with it.*
- *I like to be left alone to get on with the job.*

glad = happy

Sample Summary:

The text is a dialog between Paula and her mom. Paula is nagging about her homework and asks her mom about her school life. Her mom tells her that she had more homework and challenges than Paula, but she managed to do them by being organized. Paula realizes that she should focus on her homework and stop complaining. The text shows the importance of prioritizing and completing one's tasks.

Source:

[Intermediate 2 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://intermediate2.anglophone.ir)