Unit 10
Developing Ability[1]

READING 1

This text is about the development of intelligence and ability in gifted children, and then answer the questions which follow.

Psychologists have debated a long time about whether a child's upbringing can give it ability to do outstanding well. Some think that it is impossible to develop genius and say that it is simply something a person is born with. Others, however, argue that the potential for great achievement can be developed. The truth lies somewhere between these two extremes.

It seems very obvious that being born with the right qualities from gifted parents will increase a child's ability to do well. However, this ability will be fully realized only with the right upbringing and opportunities. As one psychologist says, "To have a fast car, you need both a good engine and fuel."

Scientists have recently assessed intelligence, achievement and ability in 50 sets of identical twins that were separated shortly after birth and brought up by

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[1] **Heaton, Brian. *Topics in English:* A Reading Skills Course 1, Longman Asia Limited , 1994, PP. 72-77**

different parents. They found that achievement was based on intelligence, and later influenced by the child's environment.

One case involving very intelligent twins was quoted. One of the twins received a normal upbringing, and performed well. The other twin, however, was brought up by extremely supportive parents and given every possible opportunity to develop its abilities. That twin, though starting out with the same degree of intelligence as the other, performed even better. This case reflects the general principle of intelligence and ability. The more favorable the environment, the more a child's intelligence and ability are developed. However, there is no link intelligence and socioeconomic level of a child's family. In other words, it does not matter how poor or how rich a family is, as this does not affect intelligence.

Gifted people cannot be created by supportive parents, but they can be developed by them. One professor of music said that outstanding musicians usually started two or three years earlier than ordinary performers, often because their parents had recognized their ability. These musicians then needed at least ten years' hard work and training in order to reach the level they were capable of attaining.

People who want to have very gifted children are given the following advice:

Mary an intelligent person.

Allow children to follow their own interests rather than the interest of the parents.

Start a child's education early but avoid pushing the child too hard.

Encourage children to play. For example, playing with musical instruments is essential for a child who wants to become an outstanding musician.

Word Study

debate (v)	**= discuss formally; put forward different views**
upbringing (n)	**= the way that parents treat and teach their children**
genius (n)	**= great ability or skill in a particular subject**
potential (n)	**= necessary ability or qualities**
obvious (adj.)	**= clear; easily seen**
assess (v)	**= consider something to make a judgement**
identical (adj.)	**= exactly alike**
quote (v)	**= repeat**
affect (v)	**= influence; cause to happen**

Vocabulary Exercise

Complete the blank in the following definitions with the best words given in the box below.

assess upbringing environment identical
genius opportunity

1. **If someone shows _____, they show very great ability or skill in doing something.**

2. When you talk about someone's _____, you discuss the way they are taught and trained when they are growing up, especially by their parents.
3. Twins who are _____ are brothers or sisters who were born at the same time and are exactly alike in every way
4. A person's _____ refers to the physical and social conditions in which they live. It consists of everything that affects their daily life.
5. If you are given an _____ to do something you want, someone makes it possible for you to do it.
6. When scientists _____ intelligence, they try to measure it and make a judgement about it.

Comprehension Questions

I. *Answer these questions about the development of a child's intelligence and ability.*

1. According to the text, is it possible to increase intelligence and ability?

_____

2. What do highly intelligent children require in their upbringing?

_____

3. What did scientists find when they studied intelligence and ability in twins? _____

_____

4. Why do you think they choose twins for their study?

_____

5. Is there any connection between the wealth of a family and the development of intelligence and ability?

_____

6. How were great musicians different from ordinary musicians in their development? _____

_____

7. What kind of interests should gifted children be encouraged to follow?

_____

8. What should parents avoid doing when they encourage gifted children?

_____

_____

II. The following are examples of certain general statements made in the text. Can you write out a general statement for each example?

1. Mr. and Mrs. Liu realized that their son was very musical. He loved to listen to music, especially top people playing the violin. Even though his fingers were too small to play an ordinary violin, he asked his parents to buy him one. Consequently, they bought him a small violin and arranged for him to take lessons even though he was only four years old.

_____

_____

_____

2. Mr. Wang thought his daughter was extremely intelligent. She was only five but she was very good at doing calculations. He wanted her to develop her ability in math and attend a special school. However, his daughter wanted to play with her friends and said she enjoyed reading and writing far more than math. Mr. Wang refused to listen and insisted that his daughter have a private tutor before going to a special school so that she could develop her talent for mathematics. After a year at the school, even his daughter's teachers agreed that she was unhappy there.

_____

_____

3. Mr. and Mrs. Jung's ten-year old son was very good at dancing. He loved to dance and really liked ballet and all kinds of dancing. In fact, he had been selected to attend a special ballet school which was being run for outstanding child dancers. However, Mr. Jung thought that his son ought to be more interested in science and in sports. He even did his best to encourage his son to play baseball. Mrs. Jung also thought that dancing was not really suitable for boys, but at least she allowed her son to take dancing lessons.

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Grammar Point

Gerund and Infinitive as Subjects and Objects of verbs

จาก Reading 1 ประโยคที่พบอยู่ในพารากราฟที่สองประโยคแรกคือ

It seems very obvious that *being born with the right qualities from gifted parents* will increase a child's ability to do well.

ข้อความที่เป็นตัวเอนคือ **Gerund Phrase** ทำหน้าที่เป็นประธานของประโยค

ทั้ง **gerunds and infinitives** สามารถนำมาใช้ในฐานะประธาน และกรรมได้ นักศึกษาดูวิธีใช้ได้จากตัวอย่างต่อไปนี้

Example:

Fighting means killing. or To fight means to kill.

Smoking is forbidden. or To smoke is forbidden.

Activity 1.

In the following sentences change the infinitive into a Gerund.

1. To read is a good habit.

_____

2. To eat too much makes one fat. .

_____

3. To write with the left hand is more difficult.

_____

4. To spill the salt at table brings bad luck.

_____

5. To drink a lot of water when you are hot is said to be unwise.

_____

Activity 2.

Here is a list of verbs which have either an infinitive or a gerund as an object.

attempt	**bear**	**begin**	**continue**
dislike	**fear**	**hate**	**like**
intend	**love**	**prefer**	**omit**
propose	**start**	**learn**	

e.g. I can not bear to eat (eating) that stuff.

They began to talk. (talking)

In the following sentences change the infinitive into gerund.

1. John likes to go to the cinema once a week.

_____

2. Please begin to write, Ladda.

_____

3. Do you really dislike to go out in the evening?

_____

4. I'm sorry that I omitted to tell you the most important news.

_____

5. Most women fear to lose their good looks.

_____

READING 2

High School Honors Not Always Key to Life Success[2]

เนื้อหาที่นักศึกษาจะได้อ่านต่อไปนี้คือ บทความที่คัดลอกมาจากหนังสือพิมพ์ มีเนื้อหาเกี่ยวข้องกับนักเรียนและครูโดยตรง หัวข้อเรื่องบอกไว้ชัดเจนแล้วว่า เป็นเรื่องของนักเรียนที่แม้จะเรียนเก่ง แต่ก็ไม่ได้หมายความว่า เมื่อเรียนจบแล้วจะต้องมีงานทำ หรือประสบความสำเร็จในชีวิตเสมอไป เรื่องนี้น่าจะเป็นอุทาหรณ์ให้กับผู้ที่จะประกอบอาชีพครูได้เป็นอย่างดี ในส่วนที่เกี่ยวกับนักเรียน ก็ช่วยให้ทราบว่า ครูจะสอนแต่ความรู้ในตำราอย่างเดียวไม่ได้ ครูจะต้องให้การอบรมในด้านศีลธรรม จรรยามารยาท ตลอดจนเสริมความรู้ในการดำรงชีพควบคู่ไปด้วย และเมื่อเด็กเรียนจบออกจากโรงเรียนไปแล้ว ครูก็ควรจะมีการติดตามผล ต่อไปอีกว่า เด็กเหล่านั้นสามารถอยู่ในสังคมอย่างมีความสุข หรือประสบความสำเร็จในชีวิตมาก น้อยเพียงใด

Newspaper Article

The following article reports on a study of 81 students who were at the top of their high school classes ten years ago. Read the article to discover what the researchers believe is important in life, and decide if you agree with them. Then answer the Comprehension questions that follow.

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[2] Clark, Mark A. *Choice Reading*. The University of Michigan Press, 1996, P. 247

High School Honors Not Always Key to Life Success

1. URBANA, ILL. (AP)—Mike droppedd out of college to support his pregnant girlfriend and now works as a manager of a trucking company. Lynn graduated with honors from Harvard University and was hired as a lawyer with a top law firm in a major city. What do these two people have in common? Ten years ago they were both high school valedictorians.

2. A University of Illinois study follows the lives of 81 valedictorians and salutatorians who graduated a decade ago from public and private high schools in the state.

Tales of Success and Failure

3. The study found tales of success and failure. The research on 46 women and 35 men found that some were doctors and scientists, one was a drug addict, another was a waitress with emotional problems.

4. "There is a popular idea about people who do well in school doing well in life" said Terry Denny, professor of education. Denny conducted the study with Karen Arnold, a former graduate student of Denny's who is now a professor at Boston College. Denny and Arnold contacted the 81 students before graduation, and then followed up with interviews nearly every other year. They also sent them questionnaires in the mail.

5. One third of the students are doctors, lawyers, or have earned a doctorate. Nineteen are in business and 15 are engineers or computer scientists. Others include a farmer, a stock broker, and an aerobics instructor.

6. Arnold says many of the students have only average positions in the work world and that "most are not headed for greatness in their careers." Denny, however, says that it is too early to make such predictions. "Who expects someone to be on the Supreme Court at the age of 28 or to be the discoverer of an important scientific invention right after college?" he said. "These students are just getting started in life. They are just beginning to find out what life is all about.

Word Study

drop out (v) = stop being a member or participant

pregnant (adj.) = having off spring developing in the uterus

valedictorian (n) = the student, usually the one ranking highest in the class, delivers the valedictory. (a farewell speech)

salutatorians = the student, usually the second highest in the scholastic rank, gives the salutatory

drug addict (n) = a habitual user of narcotics

waitress (n) = **a woman or a girl who waits on a table**

every other year = **year after year**

stock broker = **a person who acts as an agent in buying & selling stocks and bonds**

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions according to your understanding of the article. *True/ False* items are indicated by a T/F before a statement. Some questions may have more than one correct answer. Others require an opinion. Choose the answer you like best, in the space provided, give reasons for your answer.

1. **T / F This story was written by reporters from Associated Press news service.**
2. **T / F Mike and Lynn both graduated first in their high school class.**
3. **How many students did professor study? _____**
   a. **What are given as some examples of the "success" that the professors found? _____**
   b. **What are given as some examples of "failures"? _____**

      _____
4. **What definition of "success" are the professors using? _____**

   _____
5. **T / F In general, people believe that success in school will lead to success life.**
6. **Who is the older professor, Denny or Arnold? _____**

   _____

7. Circle the jobs that you think a successful person might hold:

aerobics instructor	engineer	doctor
business person	lawyer	farmer
cook	professor	

8. How many of the students believe that they are failures today? _____

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9. T / F Denny is more tolerant than Arnold.

10. T / F This study proves that success in education does not predict success in later life.