

Unit 8

Parents of Gifted Children¹

ในบทนี้นักศึกษาจะได้อ่านเรื่องเกี่ยวกับเด็ก ๆ ที่มีพรสวรรค์ในด้านต่างๆ หรือเรียกได้ว่าเป็นเด็กที่มีความสามารถเป็นพิเศษ รวมทั้งวิธีการเลี้ยงดูและการให้ความสนับสนุนของพ่อแม่ของเด็กเหล่านี้ ขอให้นักศึกษาพยายามศึกษาข้อมูลที่เป็นความต้องการของเด็ก และการสนองตอบของพ่อแม่ของแต่ละครอบครัวว่าเป็นอย่างไร รวมถึงแนวในการนำเสนอเนื้อหาของผู้เขียนด้วยว่ามีลักษณะใด เช่นเป็นการกล่าวโดยใช้ข้อมูลทั่วไป หรือเป็นการนำเสนอในรูปของการยกตัวอย่างประกอบ ทั้งนี้เพื่อจะได้นำไปใช้เป็นตัวอย่างในการเขียน compositions ชนิดต่าง ๆ ต่อไป

READING 1

If parents bring up a child into a genius, they will cause a disaster. According to several leading educational psychologists, this is one of the biggest mistakes which ambitious parents make. Generally, the child will be only too aware of what the parent expects, and will fail. Unrealistic parent expectations can cause great damage to children.

However, if parents are not too unrealistic about what they expect their children to do, but are ambitious in a sensible way, the child may succeed in doing very well-- especially if the parents are very supportive of their child.

1 Heaton, Brian. *Topics in English: A Reading Skills Course 1*, Longman Asia

Michael Lee Chao Tin is very lucky. He is crazy about music, and his parents help him a lot by taking him to concerts and arranging private piano and violin lessons for him. They even drive him 50 kilometers twice a week for iolin lessons. Although Michael's mother knows very little about music, Michael's Father plays the trumpet in a large orchestra. However, he never makes Michael enter music competitions if he is unwilling.

Michael's friend, Winston Chiu Fang Weng, however, is not lucky. Although both his parents are successful musicians, they set too high a standard for Winston. They want their son to be as successful as they are and so they enter him for every piano competition held. They are very unhappy when he does not win. "When I was your age, I used to win every competition I entered," Winston's father tells him. Winston is always afraid that he will disappoint his parents and now he always seems quiet and unhappy.

Word Study

bring up (v)	= look after during childhood
genius(adj.)	= very great and unusual capacity in a particular subject; or a highly talented person
disaster (n)	= great damage
ambitious (adj.)	= a strong desire to be successful, rich, or powerful
aware of (adj.)	= knowing; realizing
supportive (adj.)	= providing encouragement and help
unwilling (adj.)	= not want to do something
disappoint (v)	= fail to do what is hoped or expected

Word Building

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. succeed (v) | success (n) | successful (adj) |
| 2. music (n) | musical (adj.) | musician (n) |
| 3. disappointed (adj.) | disappointing (adj.) | disappointment (n) |
| 4. support (v) | supporter (n) | supportive (adj.) |

Complete each blank with the correct form of the words shown above

1. succeed

The police at last 1 _____ in solving the mystery. Their 2 _____ was the result of a mixture of hard work and luck. As in any other job, it is only possible to be 3 _____ if you are determined.

2. music

Anna is studying 1 _____ at the Mozart College Of Music. She is very 2 _____ and plays the piano, flute, and guitar. Her teacher thinks she will become a very good 3 _____ if she continues to practice a lot.

3. disappoint

I was very 1 _____ when I heard that I hadn't passed my driving test. My driving instructor was aware of my 2 _____ and said I would certainly pass the test the next time I took it. I knew also that my performance in the driving test had been 3 _____ in many ways and I felt sure I could do better.

4. support

I was very grateful to my parents for 1 _____ me when I had no job. They were always encouraging me and 2 _____ during those difficult times. Later, when I manage to get a job, I was glad that my mother, who had always been a strong 3 _____ of equal pay for women, helped me to negotiate a suitable salary.

Comprehension Questions

A. Circle the letter showing the best way of completing each of the five sentences which follow.

1. One of the worst mistakes any parents can make is to _____.

- a. neglect their child's education**
- b. push the child into trying to achieve too much**
- c. make their child become a musician**
- d. help their child to be a genius through constant support**

2. Parents' ambition for their children is not wrong if _____

- a. they push the children into achieving a lot**
- b. they understand and help their children in difficult times**
- c. they themselves have been very successful**
- d. they arrange private lessons for their children**

3. Michael Lee is fortunate because _____.

- a. he is very interested in music
- b. his parents are quite rich and have a car
- c. his mother doesn't know much about music
- d. his parents help him in a sensible way

4. Winston's parents push their son so much that _____

- a. he is unhappy because he is afraid he may not be successful
- b. he has passed a lot of competitions
- c. he feels he cannot learn anything about music from them
- d. he has already become a better musician than his father

5. The two examples illustrate the principle that _____.

- a. it is important to let children develop in the way they want
- b. successful parents often have unsuccessful children
- c. parents who want their child to be musical should also be musicians
- d. the more money spent on a child's education, the better the child will do

B. Look at the reading text once again. Write the correct word in the text for each of the following definitions. The first has been done as an example.

- 1. encouraging and helpful, especially when someone is having a difficult time = supportive
- 2. having or showing a strong desire to be successful = _____
- 3. a person with very great ability or intelligence = _____

4. harm = _____
5. imaginary, strange and difficult to believe = _____
6. having a strong interest in something = _____
7. of fathers and mothers = _____
8. people who study the way our minds work and how they influence what we do = _____

C. Which parents are the most sensible, according to the text? Write out the number of the example which shows the best way of helping a child. Next, working in group, discuss each of the examples.

1. Although Mark Cheng is the best student in the college at mathematics, his parents are not at all interested. They are both very poor and they now want Mark to leave college to earn his living in a large import and export company. However, they are very pleased that he will be working in an office and that he will be able to use his knowledge of math.

2. Mabel Wu's father is very pleased that his daughter is good at learning foreign languages. Mr. Wu can speak English, French, German, and Japanese, and he sends his daughter for private foreign languages lessons every evening. However, his daughter has a lot of homework and now finds it very hard to do everything. She wanted to stop going for Japanese and Arabic lessons but her father would not listen to her. "You must learn as much as you can while you are young," he said. When she told him she no longer liked learning Japanese, Mr. Wu became very angry and wouldn't listen to her.

3. Anna Leung has always wanted to become a ballet dancer. Her parents have bought her a lot of books on ballet dancing and they often take her to see ballet. They also arrange for her to have folk-dancing lessons. Anna's father encourages her to study hard and do well in her other subjects at college, too. However, sometimes he lets Anna miss classes if there is a ballet festival or competition. Anna has won two dancing competitions, and both her parents are delighted. "We'll help you to become a professional ballet dancer if you're sure you really want to do that," her father tells her.

4. Henry Yao is interested in art but his parents want him to become a doctor. They pay for him to have private tuition in biology and chemistry, and they themselves help him a lot, but they never make him work too hard. they talk to him and try to persuade him to become a doctor. "What's the use of trying to making a living by painting pictures?" Henry's father always says. But all Henry lives for is painting.

Answer: The example showing the best way of helping a child is _____.

D. Write the most suitable word in each blank.

Parents who are 1 _____ can do great 2 _____ if they bring up their children with the sole intention of turning them into a 3 _____. Such children will usually 4 _____ because they will be only too 5 _____ of what their parents 6 _____ them to do. In most cases parents' 7 _____ are completely 8 _____. The best parents are kind and 9 _____ their children in a sensible way without 10 _____ them too hard.

Grammar Points

1. **too + Adjective (or adverb) + for + pronoun** มีความหมายว่า “มากเกินไป” สำหรับคนใดคนหนึ่ง เช่น

They set too high a standard for Winston.

That hat is too big for a little boy.

2. **Too – to** มีความหมายว่า มากกว่าที่จะ... เป็นการแสดงความหมายปฏิเสธ ซึ่งเหมือนกับการใช้ **so—that** ในความหมายปฏิเสธเช่นกัน ตัวอย่าง

No one is too old to learn.

(ไม่มีใครแก่เกินกว่าที่จะเรียนรู้)

{ **The coffee is so hot that I can't drink it.**
The coffee is too hot (for me) to drink.

{ **This house is so big that the maid can't clean it alone.**
This house is too big for the maid to clean alone.

ประโยคคู่แรกมีความหมายเหมือนกัน กล่าวคือ “กาแฟร้อนมากเกินไปจนดื่มไม่ได้” ส่วนที่ต่างกันก็คือเป็นประโยคคนละชนิดกัน ประโยคแรกเป็น **Complex sentence** ประโยคที่สองเป็น **Simple sentence**

ประโยคคู่ที่สองก็มีความหมายเหมือนกัน กล่าวคือ “บ้านหลังนี้ใหญ่มากเกินกว่าที่สาวใช้จะทำความสะอาดคนเดียวได้”

Activity 1

Combine each of these pairs of sentences by using too - to infinitive structure as shown above.

1. Mr. Sim is very old. He cannot work now.

2. Mary is only nine years old. She is still young. She can't travel to Paris alone.

3. You are ignorant of the subject. You can't understand what you are saying.

4. You are not very old. You can't marry.

5. I am very busy. I can't stop and answer your questions now.

Activity 2

Rewrite each of the following sentences as in the examples. Use the word too in each new sentence. The second sentence of each pair should have the same meaning as the first one. The first two pairs have been done as examples.

1. Their expectations should be more realistic.

Their expectations are too unrealistic.

2. Parents should be less ambitious for their children.

Parents are too ambitious for their children.

