

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

You have found a newsletter article in a parenting magazine. Read the article.

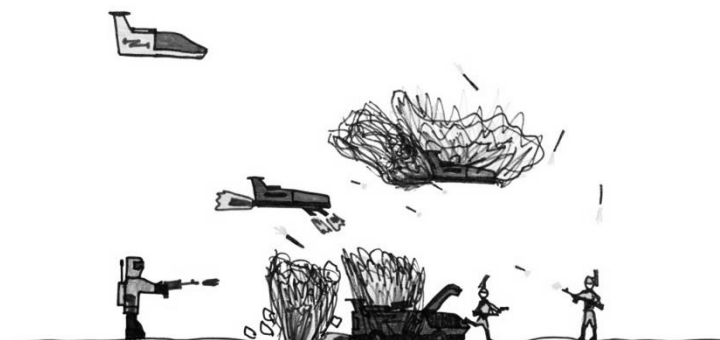
Text 2 Newsletter article



① The child's face was turning purple. Her face was contorting in anger while she was holding the doll with an iron grip. She was refusing to let it go. 'But I want it, Mummy!' The red-faced mother was clearly uncomfortable under the spotlight while judgemental shoppers stared and tut-tutted under their breaths. Suddenly, the mother let go of the doll. She took a step back. The little girl of around four paused mid-tantrum and froze. 'What will this mother do next?' I was wondering.

Parents raise the white flag

② Many mothers would be tempted to be irresponsible. They would stick to the 'Generation-Give-In' parenting style and surrender the doll battle just to stop the screaming. This parenting method is often based on the feeling of guilt parents have over their long working hours. Parents are also aware that their children are under pressure from their peers to have the latest toys and gadgets. As a result, they give in easily. There are also some parents who just want to see their children smile. So, they reach readily into their wallets.



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15 Lifelong negative effects

- 3** Since this particular mother's battle just involves a little doll, which is not too expensive, does it really matter? Well, actually, it does—in the long run! Studies show that children who are used to getting their way become overly dependent on their parents. Therefore, later in life they mistakenly believe that they need to rely on other people to make them happy. Spoilt children tend to lack critical problem-solving skills as everything is done for them. Spoilt children often grow up into immature adults because they have never learnt that relationships involve giving and taking.

Change is better late than never

- 4** The doll mother was standing quite still while her daughter was waiting for her next move. I was watching the drama unfold when something occurred to me. What if it was already too late for the doll mother? What if her child was already ruined as a result of a lifetime of getting her way? Childhood development experts say that it is never too late to do a complete U-turn. There is hope no matter how daunting it may seem. They say that the trick to 'unspoiling' a child is to take baby steps towards change. You also have to remain consistent. I was reading an article on the topic recently when the following advice caught my eye:

- Encourage a lot of free play.
- Rules are rules. Do not negotiate.
- Never give in to tantrums.
- Offer encouragement instead of gifts.

- 5** Sometime later, while I was leaving the shop, I saw the little girl put the doll back on the shelf. For some reason, my heart lifted—just a little.



Further simplified reading and comprehension

Unit 2

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension 2 *Your father wants to know more about dealing with spoilt children. Answer his questions using information from the newsletter article. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

- 1 What type of toy did the little girl want? Put a tick (✓) in the box.


☐

☐

☐

☐

- 2 Why do you think the mother is 'red-faced' in paragraph 1?

- 3 According to the newsletter article, which of the following is NOT a reason the 'Generation-Give-In' parents spoil their children?

- ☐ A They feel guilty about working long hours.
- ☐ B They want their children to care for them when they are older.
- ☐ C They want to make their children happy.
- ☐ D They want their children to have the same toys and gadgets as their friends.

- 4 In paragraph 2, find one word and one phrase that are opposite in meaning to 'resist'.

i) _____

ii) _____

- 5 What does the writer believe might be the long-term bad effect of buying the doll?

- 6 According to the writer, how can spoiling a child have a negative effect on him or her later in life? Tick (✓) all that apply.

i) They could become selfish. ☐

ii) They could become violent. ☐

iii) They could lack independence. ☐

iv) They could avoid their parents. ☐

v) They could have trouble solving problems. ☐

- 7 What does 'it' in line 36 refer to?

- 8 In paragraph 4, find a word that means 'small acts'.

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- 9 Who won the 'Battle of Wills' in the end? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

- 10 What does the phrase 'my heart lifted' (line 47) mean?

- A It frightened me.
B I had a heart attack.
C It made me feel nervous.
D I felt pleased.

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

- 11 What is the purpose of the newsletter article?

- A to explain why children throw tantrums
B to highlight the importance of not spoiling a child
C to teach parents how to deal with interpersonal problems
D to promote the benefits of free play

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

- 12 Complete the following summary using information from the newsletter article. Use ONE word to complete each blank. Make sure the words are grammatically correct.

'Generation-Give-In' parents usually just (i) _____ to their children's demands whenever the youngsters throw a/an (ii) _____ and start screaming. However, this style of parenting can cause their children to grow up to be overly (iii) _____ on other people. Fortunately, it is possible to 'unspoil' a child. Parents just have to be firm and (iv) _____ when it comes to enforcing the rules.

- 13 Complete the sentences below with words from Text 2. Use ONE word to complete each blank. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

- i) The gymnast _____ (*twisted*) his limbs into seemingly impossible positions. (paragraph 1)
ii) She was hurt by the mean and _____ (*very critical*) messages she received from online bullies. (paragraph 1)
iii) Jim was _____ (*attracted*) to eat another piece of cake but he was able to resist it in the end. (paragraph 2)
iv) The hike up the steep mountain was quite _____ (*challenging*) and felt impossible! (paragraph 4)