

*Instruction draft.*

## Help new parents find suggestions and advice online

Parenting is both challenging and rewarding. New parents often have many questions regarding their little ones and online fora are good places for them to look for advice. However, navigating through many posts is challenging, and our goal is to help them find advice that they need. And we need our help!

In this task, you will first read a post asking for parenting advice. Then, go to the link provided below and head to our highlighting interface to read the replies to this post. The highlighting interface looks like below:

1	Reply 1
3	In Kentucky it 's legal to leave a " mature " 8 year old at home alone all day .
4	I find that crazy young .
8	I started leaving mine home at age 9 - 10 for a half hour here , 45 min there , working up to a couple of hours .
10	>>>> Reply 1.1
12	Yeah , even though my son has always been very mature for his age , I would not have been comfortable leaving him home alone all day long at age eight !
14	-----
16	Reply 2
18	For an hour ?
19	I 'd on average say elementary school aged .
20	So 6 up , depending on how responsible / mature the child is and if they 're willing to stay home alone .
22	No answering the door , no leaving the house , no using the stove , no friends over and I 'd talk about what neighbors might be home in case of an emergency .
24	Oh , and I 'm from Germany .
26	-----

Each reply is marked by a **reply ID**; sub-replies are also marked with the symbols ">>>". As you read through the replies, if you think the sentence (or clause) that you are reading is an advice, please **highlight the advice**. Mark the longest contiguous text that includes such a description. It may be helpful to read the entire text once and only after that mark the text snippets describing advice.

The image shows a 'New Annotation' dialog window. It has a title bar with a close button. Inside, there are three main sections: 'Text', 'Entity type', and 'Notes'. The 'Text' section contains the sentence 'In Kentucky it 's legal to leave a " mature " 8 year old at home alone all day .' with a 'Link' button to its right. The 'Entity type' section has a list with 'Advice' selected. The 'Notes' section is empty. At the bottom right are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

New Annotation

Text

In Kentucky it 's legal to leave a " mature " 8 year old at home alone all day . [Link](#)

Entity type

- Advice

Notes

OK Cancel

Figure 1: Markup dialog window. A "delete" button will appear for a span already marked.

To mark a portion of the text, highlight the text. A menu will appear. At the top, in the "Text" field you will see the selected text. The "Entity type" section has the "Advice" tag selected by default. At the bottom, there is a "Notes" section where you can leave comments about this particular mark-up. Select "OK" at the bottom right to finalize the mark-up.

If you wish to delete a mark-up section, double click on the existing label, then select "Delete" at the bottom right. If you would like to *edit* an existing highlight, please first *delete* the original highlight.

Note that advice can come in many forms, for example:

- Q: what should I do with ants in my bathroom sink?  
A: "Put baking soda and vinegar down the drain." (imperative)
- Q: how can my baby sleep through the night?  
A: "You can try just let the baby cry it out." (modal verbs)
- Q: I am having heart palpitations. What should I do?

A: "I also had palpitations. I stumbled upon fish oil that my dad was taking for his heart, and it cleared them out." (personal narratives)

- Q: should I enforce my house rule?

"It comes down to why you have the rule. What is/was the logic in creating the rule in the first place and does that still carry?" (rhetorical question that *prompts a direction of thought*)

Please highlight only **explicit** advice that **directly** answers the question. Here are some examples that should NOT be considered an advice:

- Expressing sentiment, e.g., "Parenthood: you will never love and hate something so much."
- Expressing support, e.g., "You are enough.", "It's totally understandable".
- ~~Argumentation, e.g., "Everyone is responsible for their own deeds. You can only guide them."~~
- ~~Rhetorical questions that are purely for argumentation/sentimental purposes: "How do you expect him to accept your values, when he had nothing to look for?"~~
- Information-seeking questions, e.g., "How old is your daughter?"

A complete annotated article should look like Figure 2.

1	Reply 1
3	<div>Advice</div> In Kentucky it 's legal to leave a " mature " 8 year old at home alone all day .
4	I find that crazy young .
8	<div>Advice</div> I started leaving mine home at age 9 - 10 for a half hour here , 45 min there , working up to a couple of hours .
10	>>>> Reply 1.1
12	<div>Advice</div> Yeah , even though my son has always been very mature for his age , I would not have been comfortable leaving him home alone all day long at age eight !
16	Reply 2
18	<div>Advice</div> For an hour ? I 'd on average say elementary school aged . So 6 up , depending on how responsible / mature the child is and if they 're willing to stay home alone .
20	No answering the door , no leaving the house , no using the stove , no friends over and I 'd talk about what neighbors might be home in case of an emergency .
22	Oh , and I 'm from Germany .
26	Reply 3
28	<div>Advice</div> I started with 15 minute stints when my kids were about 6 . An hour was when they were about 7 . At this point , I would be comfortable leaving the 9 year old alone for 4 hours and the 14 year old about 12 hours ( during the day ) .
32	Reply 4
34	<div>Advice</div> My oldest was in middle school ( 12 ) when I let her stay home alone .
35	It 's not that I did n't trust her sooner .
36	It was more convenient for me to pick up both of my elementary school aged children from the sitter 's house since they were both attending a school outside of my regular district .
38	

Figure 2: A completed annotation.

When you are finished with all texts, press the "submit" button, shown in Figure 3. There you will see a code unique for the HIT you just completed. **Do NOT refresh or zoom the annotation**

**page** (this will cause your annotations to be lost). **Make sure to leave the Mechanical Turk window open as you complete the annotation.** When you are finished, you will return to the Mechanical Turk page to paste the code into the box.

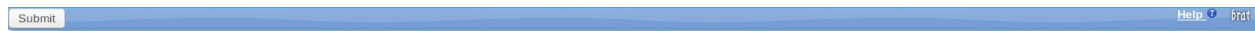


Figure 3: Navigation bar.

In the annotation page you can always view these instructions again by clicking on the "help" button at the upper right corner of the navigation bar.

Please identify an advice as **“positive”** if the advice is a constructive advice (advice someone to do something), and **“negative”** if the advice is *against* doing something.

The replies will consist of multiple levels, so we ask you to read through all. As you highlight an advice, please assign a **unique ID** to the advice.

In addition to identify advice, we ask you to also consider whether the advice can “stand alone”. An advice can “stand alone” if, taken out of its context and just consider the text span you highlighted, you can completely understand the advice given *only the advice seeking initial post*. If you judge that an advice does NOT stand alone, please **mark (comment) the ID of the advice that it depends on**. Here is an example:

Question: “How can I let my 8-month-old sleep through the night?”

Reply 1, to Question: “Just let him cry it out.”

Reply 2, to Reply 1: “As long as you stick to it”.

Reply 1 can be considered to “stand alone” given the question, while Reply 2 *depends* on Reply 1.

## Pilot notes

- Annotate up to 10 replies, regardless of the “level” of the reply.
- Please create a separate file for each Reddit post, name the file using the format <subreddit-name>\_<postid>\_<your-last-name> and put into this folder.
- Please also consider the following:
  - Whether the poster asked for advice for something that already happened (what they could have done differently), or something that is happening, or a hypothetical situation