

COMMUNICATION

Discussing what it means to be a parent

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_1083X

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can talk about different ways of parenting.
- I can discuss what it means to be a responsible parent.



Warm-up

Ask a classmate one of the questions below. You can do this activity **in breakout rooms** or **in the main classroom**. If using breakout rooms, share what you found out about your partner with the rest of the group.



Do you have (or would you like to have) children?

Were your parents strict when you were a child?

*Do you usually follow your parents' advice?
Can you think of a time when you went against their advice?*



Reading

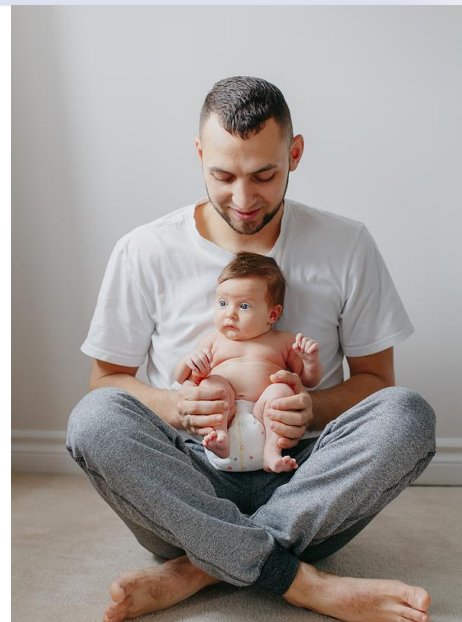
Read the **dialogue** between Cameron and Paul and **answer the questions** in the red box.

Cameron: Dude, you look dead! Was Milena keeping you up last night?

Paul: Oh, you have no idea. All I'll say is: Sleep as much as you can before the new baby arrives. But it wasn't just Milena. Jake and I got into a bit of a fight.

Cameron: Oh no, what happened?

Paul: I think we just have really different views on parenting. When Millie gets older, Jake wants to make her do all these crazy things. He wants her to play the piano, learn French and become a dancer. I'm like: *She should be free to do whatever she wants when it comes to hobbies.*



1. How do we know that Paul is tired?
2. Who are Milena and Jake?
3. What are Paul's views on parenting?



Reading

Read the **dialogue** between Cameron and Paul and **answer the questions** in the red box.

Cameron: Oh wow! I'm totally with you on that. Pushy parents are the worst. To be honest, I'm happy if Adrian just does his homework and makes his bed in the morning.

Paul: Exactly! Parenting isn't about making your child do things. It's about showing them the world and letting them decide who they want to be.

Cameron: That's true. Although I do think there should be certain rules. Linda and I recently had a discussion about when Adrian should have his first smartphone. We don't want him to be one of those kids who are glued to their phone all the time. But I mean, I don't think there's really a right or wrong when it comes to parenting. We all just try to do what's best for our kids.



4. Does Cameron have children?
5. What are Cameron's views on parenting?

to become a
parent

parenting

pregnant



What's another way
of saying this?

What's the difference
between *becoming a*
parent and
parenting?

Is being **pregnant**
the only way to have
a child?



Why don't you just let
the child do **whatever**
they want?

Whatever!

What does **whatever** mean in these two
examples?



Pushy parents are the worst!



Do you agree with this quote from the dialogue?
What's something that a **pushy** parent would do or say?



Fill in the gaps

Complete the sentences with the words from the red box.

- 1 Jan and Betty are such _____ parents. They control everything George does.
- 2 Lisa is _____. The baby will be here soon!
- 3 I think children should be able to do _____ they want.
- 4 Not all parents are automatically good at _____.
- 5 To me, the best thing about being a _____ is helping my child learn.

pregnant
parenting
pushy
parent
whatever

to make vs. to let

Read these quotes from the text and **fill in the gaps** in the blue box.



Paul

Jake wants **to make** her **do** all these crazy things.



Paul

I want **to let** her **do** whatever she wants when it comes to hobbies.

- We use *to* _____ to express that someone is **forced** to do something.
- We use *to* _____ to express that someone is **allowed** to do something.



Complete the sentences

Fill in the blanks using *make* or *let*.

- 1 I would like to _____ my child decide which hobbies they want to have.
- 2 We _____ our son Tim help us with the cleaning.
- 3 You _____ me do so much work! I don't want to help!
- 4 As a parent, I want to _____ my child do whatever she wants, so long as she's happy.
- 5 Why do you always _____ me clean your room? Can't you do it yourself?

Collocations with *do*

**to do the
washing**



How often do you do
the washing?

**to do the
dishes**



Do you have a
dishwasher or do
you wash the dishes
by hand?

to do homework



Did you enjoy doing
homework as a
child?



Collocations with *make*

to make the bed



Do you make your bed in the morning?

to make dinner



Do you enjoy cooking?

to make a mess



Are you a messy person?



Create sentences

Form sentences with *make* or *do*.

1 Lisa – not – want – homework



2 Why – such – a mess?



3 you – dinner – tonight?

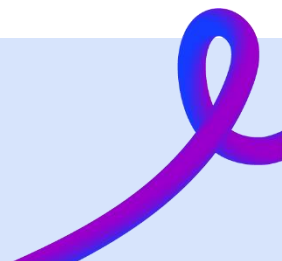


4 I – not want – dishes



5 I – always – bed – mornings







What about you?

Which things would you make your child do?



Would you let your child do whatever they wanted or would you have certain rules?





Discuss

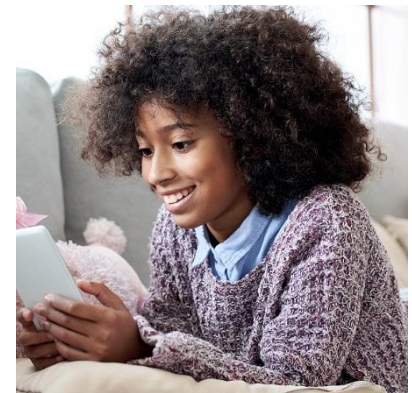


We don't want him to be one of those kids who are glued to their phone all the time.

When did you have your first phone?

At what age should children have their first phone?

How would you control your child's phone use?





End of the lesson

Idiom

Like father like son

Meaning: We use this idiom to say that someone is similar in some way to one (or both) of their parents.



Additional activities



What's the word?

Read the definitions and guess the words.



1 a parent that controls what their child does



2 the act of raising and educating children



3 a woman having a baby grow inside her



4 a mother or father of a child



5 to become a mother or father for the first time







Complete the sentences

Fill in the blanks using *make* or *do*.



- 1 Stop watching TV! You should _____ your homework!
- 2 Look at your room! Why did you _____ such a mess?
- 3 Could you help me _____ dinner tonight, please?
- 4 I _____ my bed every morning right after I get up.
- 5 Can you please _____ the dishes today?





Categorise

Look at the phrases down below. Would you use them with *make someone do something* (forced) or *let someone do something* (allowed).

watch TV

do homework

eat sweets

do the washing

stay up all night

do the dishes

make a mess

make the bed

go to a party

make breakfast

to make someone do something

to let someone do something



Discuss

Which things did you have to help with as a child?



Which rules did you have as a child?
Would / do you have the same rules for your children?



Discuss

“Parenting isn’t about making your child do things. It’s about showing them the world and letting them decide who they want to be.”

Do you agree with this statement?

What is parenting about for you personally?

Do you and your partner have the same view on parenting?





Answer Key

P.4:

1. Possible answer: Because Cameron tells him he looks 'dead' and asks if Milena (his daughter) kept him up all night.
2. Milena is Paul's daughter; Jake is Paul's partner/husband
3. Paul thinks his daughter should be free to do what she wants (when it comes to hobbies).

P.5:

4. Yes, he has a son called Adrian.
5. Cameron doesn't think there is a right or wrong way to parent; he thinks all parents just try to do their best for their kids.

P.9: 1. pushy 2. pregnant 3. whatever 4. parenting 5. parent

P.11: 1. let 2. make 3. make 4. let 5. make

Additional practice

P.20: 1. pushy parent 2. parenting 3. pregnant 4. parent 5. to become a parent

P.21: 1. do 2. make 3. make 4. make 5. do

P.22:

to make someone do something: do homework, do the washing, do the dishes, make the bed, make breakfast

to let someone do something: watch TV, eat sweets, stay up all night, make a mess, go to a party



Summary

to make vs. to let someone do something:

- We use *to make someone do something* to express that someone is **forced** do something.
- We use *to let someone do something* to express that someone is **allowed** do something.

Phrases with to do vs. to make:

- to do the washing, to do the dishes, to do homework
- to make the bed, to make dinner, to make a mess

Real-life language:

- pushy parent; Whatever!

Vocabulary:

- to become a parent, parenting, pregnant



Vocabulary

to become a parent

parenting

pregnant

to let the child do whatever they want

Whatever!

pushy parent

to make someone do something

to let someone do something

to do the washing

to do the dishes

to do homework

to make the bed

to make dinner

to make a mess



Notes

