**Leaving home**

Going away to university is always a tricky time, both for the students who are leaving home and their parents who are staying behind. We got advice on how to cope from a student daughter and her dad.

**A daughter’s advice to parents, by Kerry Price**

My parents drove me to uni at the beginning of the first term. That was great, but then they hung around, so it was hard to chat to the people in the rooms near mine. It’s best if you leave us to unpack ourselves.

Don’t ask us to come home during term time. There’s a lot going on at weekends, there just isn’t time.

Get another interest or a pet if you feel lonely without us. Don’t make us feel guilty about leaving home!

It is quite interesting to hear about your experiences at uni, but remember that it was a LONG time ago so don’t go on about it so much. Things have changed a lot. Now we have a lot more debt and it’ll be harder to find a job in the future.

Please don’t check up on us or our friends on Facebook. I know it’s a public site, but we have the right to some privacy.

Don’t change anything in our bedrooms. We have only half left home - we’ll be back in the holidays, so please don’t touch anything.

We’d still like to come on family holidays with you. Don’t forget to include us just because we’re not there all the time.

**A father’s advice to students, by Stuart Price**

Don’t complain so much about how much work you have to do. We work a lot too. You’re an adult now, get used to it.

Put up with the fact that we refused to get a dog while you were at home, then suddenly bought one as soon as you moved out. We miss you!

Just because you’re at university studying very complex subjects, it doesn’t mean that you’re more intelligent than everybody else. Don’t treat your family as if they were stupid; we’re really not.

Let us come and visit you now and again. We promise to try not to embarrass you in front of your friends. We just want to see you for a short time and take you out for a meal.

Don’t waste so much time on Facebook. You need time for all that work you have to do, remember?

We might make a few changes to your room, so deal with it. It’s great to have a guest room at last, but we won’t change things too much, promise.

Don’t forget to call home from time to time and don’t get annoyed if we phone you. It’s not pestering. If we didn’t call, you wouldn’t know that we care.

**Choose the correct option to complete the sentences**

When children leave home to go to university, it’s …

The moment they’ve been waiting for

A difficult experience

More difficult for parents than for children

More difficult for children than for parents

Kerry says when students first go to uni, parents should …

Give their children a lift and then stay a while

Give them a lift and then leave

Let their children find their own transport

Help them unpack their things

Kerry thinks students should…

Do everything they can to avoid upsetting lonely parents

Go home regularly while everyone gets used to the change

Not feel bad about spending weekends in their university town

Avoid visiting their parents too much during term time

Kerry thinks Facebook is …

A good way to send private messages to family

A good way to show her parents what she’s doing with her friends

A space that parents should keep away from

Great for parents as long as you’re careful with your privacy settings

Stuart thinks students sometimes…

Look down on people who are not studying

Ask for help with their work too much

Talk about their university subjects too much

Forget that their parents were young once

Stuart says parents would like to…

Stay for at least one night when they visit

Meet their son or daughter’s university friends

Come and visit at least once a fortnight

Visit every so often and go to a restaurant together

Stuart is …

Hurt that his daughter won0t talk to him on Facebook

Critical of the amount of time his daughter spends on Facebook

A big fan of Facebook

Confused about how to use Facebook properly

Stuart promises to …

Make only minimal changes to his daughter’s bedroom

Keep his daugther0s bedroom exactly as she left it

Redecorate his daughter’s bedroom and turn it into a guest bedroom

Clean his daughter’s old room before she comes back to visit

**Fill the gaps with the correct verb phrase from the box**

Take her out / give her a lift / check up on / hang around / going on / put up with / go on about

The text gives two points of view about the difficult time when young people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Kerry was happy that her parents agreed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when she first went to uni

Kerry advises parents no to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ while their children are trying to chat to their new roommates

Kerry says students can’t come home at weekends because there’s so much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Kerry wishes her parents wouldn’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their university days so much

Kerry says parents should not use Facebook to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their children

Stuart thinks children just have to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the fact that their parents might get a pet when they leave

Stuart says he would like to see Kerry occasionally and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for dinner.