



Introduction

- 1 Divide these behaviours into three categories: positive, neutral and negative.
 - a I always try to be as frank as possible.
 - b I avoid conflict at all costs.
 - c Sometimes I think one thing but say another.
 - d I'm quite diplomatic.
 - e I don't like making waves.
 - f I'm not at all competitive.
 - g I'm not terribly assertive.
 - h I make a lot of rash decisions.
 - i I'm always sensitive to other people's feelings.
 - j I can put up with just about anything!
 - k I tend to be quite antagonistic.
- 2 Match these adjectives to the behaviours in 1. There may be more than one possible answer.

hypocritical upfront tactful impetuous forceful
non-confrontational cooperative tolerant passive
pugnacious tactless timid sympathetic
- 3 Think of one relationship you have had in your life (family, school, work, etc.). Tell a partner about one positive and one negative aspect of that relationship using ideas from 1 and 2.
- 4 How many interpersonal relationships, including family, professional, social, etc., do you think one person can sustain at a time? Compare your ideas.
- 5 1.16 Listen to anthropologist, Professor Robin Dunbar, talking about relationships and answer questions a–d.
 - a How many relationships does Dunbar suggest a person can sustain successfully?
 - b Why is it not possible to sustain more than this number of relationships successfully?
 - c What, according to Dunbar, are 'relationships'? Why?
 - d What is special about poets when it comes to relationships?
- 6 Do you think face-to-face relationships are better than relationships you form on the internet? Why?

1 Discuss your reactions to this quotation.

You will find as the children grow up that as a rule children are a bitter disappointment – their greatest object being to do precisely what their parents do not wish and have anxiously tried to prevent. (Queen Victoria)

2 Read through the main text below quickly, ignoring gaps 1–7 for the missing paragraphs. What has Lang Lang's relationship with his father been like?

Lang Lang, the virtuoso Chinese pianist

I When Lang Lang was nine, his father told him to kill himself. Four years before, his father had decided that his only son should become the No 1 classical pianist in China. He gave up his job as a policeman and took his son to live in Beijing, leaving Lang Lang's mother behind, planning to get the child into the prestigious Central Conservatory of Music.

II Unbelievably, when Lang Lang's father heard the news, he demanded that the boy take his own life. 'It's really hard to talk about. My father went totally nuts,' says Lang Lang quietly. 'He said: "You shouldn't live any more – everything is destroyed."' The father handed his son a bottle saying, 'Take these pills!' When Lang Lang ran out on to the balcony to get away from him, his father screamed: 'Then jump off and die.'

III Now twenty-eight, Lang Lang has surpassed his father's ambition. The musician's recitals and concerts sell out in every major city in the world and he is the first Chinese pianist to be engaged by the Vienna and Berlin philharmonic orchestras. The pianist is now based in New York and lives a rock-star lifestyle, but he began his career in a Beijing slum under a super-strict regime of practice overseen by his unforgiving father, Lang Guoren.

IV Lang Lang's parents are from Shenyang, an industrial city north-east of Beijing. They married at the end of the Cultural Revolution. Lang Lang says: 'People were starting to connect with the West, and the piano was becoming an important instrument. My mother had always wanted to be a musician and my father played in the air force orchestra before the budget was cut and he had to become a policeman. My parents bought our piano before I was born – it cost half their annual salary.'

V Lang Lang explains: 'My father quit his job as a policeman and off we went. My mother didn't come – she needed to earn money for us.' In Beijing, Lang Lang's father had to be both mother and father. Lang Lang says: 'He didn't like to cook or do the laundry, because my mum had always done it. We couldn't do much, because we only had Mum's salary and had to pay for expensive piano lessons once a week, and if there was a competition, twice a week. It was really hard.' Lang Lang's father does not understand English, but in the past, he has spoken about the way he pushed his son. He said: 'The way I see it is pressure always turns into motivation. Lang Lang is well aware that if he fails to be outstanding at playing the piano, he has nothing.'

VI Indeed, the musician has always had as much faith in himself as his father has. But it was after Professor Angry had told Lang Lang some home truths, that the boy's relationship with his father hit an all-time low. But they did not return to Shenyang afterwards. 'For three months, I didn't touch the piano,' says Lang Lang. 'We stayed in Beijing, I don't know why. Probably because having to go home would have resulted in shame for us.'

VII So began nineteen months of intensive practice as father and son redoubled their attempts to get Lang Lang into the conservatory. Finally, when Lang Lang was ten, he was admitted on a full scholarship. He and his father remained in their slum until he was fifteen, when they left for America to continue his studies in Philadelphia.

VIII Does Lang Lang think he would have succeeded without his father? 'Yes, absolutely,' he says emphatically. 'Over the years I have seen so many different cultures and different ways of bringing up kids. I believe that no matter how you train your kid, you need to give them love. Sometimes my father pushed me too much, but he loved me.'

From *The Guardian*

Tip

For each gap, check each of the options in turn. Make sure that the one you choose fits both before and after the gap.

Exam practice

3 Read the text on page 42 again, then the missing paragraphs. Choose from paragraphs A–H the one which fits each gap (1–7). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.

Missing paragraphs

- A Then one day at school, his fellow students hectored Lang Lang into playing some Mozart. He laughs: 'They asked me to play, and I said no, I don't play anymore. Then they just applauded and applauded. They gave me a score and forced me to play. I started and realized that I actually loved to play the piano. So I went home and told my father, "Find me another teacher, I'd like to play again."'
- B The 'Lang Lang effect' is credited with inspiring China's forty million classical piano students and, in 2009, he was listed in *Time Magazine's* 100 Most Influential People in the World. His name, Lang Lang, has even become a trademark.
- C Lang Lang says: 'When we came to America, my father could see that the American system was much more relaxed. At that time he said he still believed in the Chinese way. But as we met different musicians from different countries, his opinion changed. He is fifty-eight now and his personality has totally changed, he doesn't push me anymore. When I turned twenty-two, he let go.'
- D However, his teacher in Beijing, nicknamed Professor Angry by Lang Lang, had other ideas. 'Professor Angry didn't like me and she always gave me a hard time,' he remembers. 'One afternoon she said that I had no talent, that I shouldn't play the piano and I should go home. She basically fired me before I could even get into the conservatory!'
- E Lang Lang explains: 'I started lessons when I was three and a half. In the beginning I just played a little but, when I was five, I played my first recital, and from that point my parents had high hopes for me, especially my father.'
- F Born during China's one-child policy, the young musician became his parents' sole focus. When Lang Lang was nine, his father and his piano teacher decided that he must leave Shenyang for Beijing, home of the Central Conservatory of Music. If his father had been strict before, he soon became a lot harder.
- G 'I got totally crazy, too,' says Lang Lang. 'I was beating the wall, trying to prevent myself from being a pianist by destroying my hands. I hated everything: my father, the piano, myself. And then somehow, we just stopped. My father went out or I ran out – I can't remember, but somehow we stopped. After that I didn't want to play piano any more. I said, "OK, fine. Let's go home."'
- H Lang Lang disagrees. 'I think that attitude is wrong because there are a lot of things you can do in the world,' he says. 'When I was nine, I didn't like my father. I knew he had dedicated his life to me, but I thought it was too much. I found the pressure unnecessary because I was a workaholic from the very beginning. I could understand if I was lazy and didn't care, but I didn't need that kind of push, because I knew what I wanted.'

Text analysis 4 Work through a–e, referring to the text (i–viii) and missing paragraphs (A–H).

- Which word captures the idea of high status? (i)
- Find an example of a euphemism. (ii)
- Find two examples of language used for emphasis. (v)
- Find an expression which means: an unpleasant fact about a person told to him/her by somebody else. (vi)
- Which expression is normally used in a work rather than an academic situation? (D)

Vocabulary

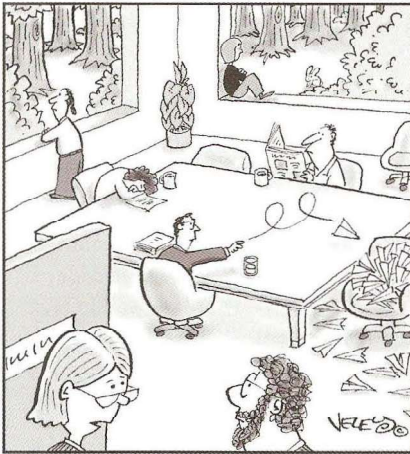
5 In your own words, explain the meaning of these phrases from the text and missing paragraphs.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| a <i>went totally nuts</i> (ii) | e <i>fails to be outstanding</i> (v) |
| b <i>surpassed his father's ambition</i> (iii) | f <i>an all-time low</i> (vi) |
| c <i>the budget was cut</i> (iv) | g <i>hectored</i> (A) |
| d <i>is well aware</i> (v) | h <i>a score</i> (A) |

Your views 6 Discuss these questions.

- How would you have reacted if you had been in Lang Lang's position?
- Do children only succeed in life if they have ambitious parents? Why/Why not?





"We like to bring together people from radically different fields and wait for the friction to produce heat, light and magic. Sometimes it takes a while."

Tip

Read through both tasks before you hear the recording. Remember that there are two questions for each speaker and you need to complete both tasks while you listen.

- 1 What do you think are the main reasons for problematic relationships at work?
- 2 Read through the exam task and the questions below. Try to imagine what the people might say.

Exam practice

- 3 **1-17** You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about problematic relationships they have had with people at work. While you listen you must complete both tasks.

TASK ONE: For questions 1–5, choose from the list (A–H) what each speaker says caused the problems.

- A a lack of ambition
- B a reluctance to pull together as a team
- C a highly competitive nature
- D a domineering attitude
- E an unreasonable increase in workload
- F a lack of sensitivity in a tricky situation
- G a series of disagreements
- H a clash of personalities

Speaker 1	<input type="text"/>	1
Speaker 2	<input type="text"/>	2
Speaker 3	<input type="text"/>	3
Speaker 4	<input type="text"/>	4
Speaker 5	<input type="text"/>	5

TASK TWO: For questions 6–10, choose from the list (A–H) what step each speaker took to solve the problems.

- A complained to someone in a higher position
- B took compassionate leave
- C decided to look for another position elsewhere
- D fought back using the same weapons
- E accepted the situation but felt bitter about it
- F tried to get the message across about how they felt
- G decided not to take the problem too seriously
- H backed down to avoid unpleasantness

Speaker 1	<input type="text"/>	6
Speaker 2	<input type="text"/>	7
Speaker 3	<input type="text"/>	8
Speaker 4	<input type="text"/>	9
Speaker 5	<input type="text"/>	10

Vocabulary

Expressions connected with communication

- 4 Complete expressions a–j using a word from the list. What do they mean?

miss take have sense chest message say teeth humble fall

- a _____ what you mean
- b eat _____ pie
- c get your _____ across
- d lie through your _____
- e talk _____ into someone
- f get something off your _____
- g _____ something to heart
- h _____ a heart to heart
- i _____ out with someone
- j _____ the point

Your views

- 5 Think about a problem you have had, or someone you know has had with a relationship. Then discuss these questions with a partner.
 - a What caused the problem?
 - b How was it dealt with?