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英语学习最佳读本

雄视教辅书界「畅销3年」



刘彦军 高华军◎主编

北京燕山出版社



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Perception of Lifetime



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本系列丛书在编著过程中,由于时间仓促,工作量大,未能及时与部分所选文章的作者一一取得联系,本着对书稿质量的追求,又不忍将美文割爱,故冒昧地将文章选录书中。

请有关作者在见到本书后,主动与我们联系。

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关于“建议”

佚名

韦氏字典中“建议”一词的定义如下：“对某种行为提出意见或忠告。”

“我需要点建议”是英文语言中很令人厌恶的话语之一。之所以这样说,是因为在无任何预兆的情况下,给建议的人总要面对那些未知的事情。在这方面,我的女儿是专家。最近,我总能预测到她打电话的时间,而且总是在万事如意的情况下,电话铃就响起。犹如我总是向女儿暗示:我已经准备好了!对于这种无法逃避的事,我总是心态坦然。“爸爸”,电话总是这样开始,其实“爸爸”这个词,无论怎样叫,都无所谓。听起来就像问别人问题,又不想让人听到似的。也就是说,她的声音比耳语还要低。我知道,她知道我在听电话,因为是她拨的电话,而她也听出了我的声音,对此我深信不疑。而爸爸这个词好像是我必须准备好的信号。

女儿年幼时,我渴望给她建议。事实上,她也会很高兴地接受,这一点我很肯定。让孩子对生活有所准备,是作为父亲最重要的事情。对此,倒不是我已做好准备,但至少我已在社会上生存这么多年。她过去常常坐在我身旁,或趴在我膝上,让我给她解释她生活中的困惑。我会给她讲伦理和道德,让生活更有意义。几年后,女儿到了花季年龄,不再像儿时那样接受我的建议了。事实上,看得出来,她对此已有些畏惧。我希望她能平稳地度过花季,所以无论如何,我还是给了她建议。我非常理解,为何她不接受我的建议和我积累的经验。多年来,她都未曾向我征求过建议,但我还是给她提出。现在想想,父亲当年也是这样!

时光如梭,她离开了家,开始了自己的生活。似乎相隔两处,某些事情反倒成为必要,她再次向我征求建议。首先这很好,从这件事上可以看出,她觉得我的智慧还是能经受住时间考验的。但到后来,我觉得我有时也犯错。因此,对她的问题,我开始有点怕回



答了。

在我的一生中,并不只有女儿向我征求意见。妻子总是做事诡秘,她知道如何解决
问题,但总是希望我们俩的答案能一致。有时,她也接受我的建议,但基本上,还是自己
决定。其他时候,她则神经兮兮地看着我,那种表情似乎在问:“你是哪个星球来的?”不
管使用哪种方式,我都尽量使她满意。

生命中,很多时候,都是父母教我为人处世的方法,他们依据自己多年的处世经验
帮我做出正确的选择。但现在,他们反而向我征求建议,这倒让我难以理解了。我们似
乎互换了角色。这种角色的互换意味着,他们意识到我已经能正确地做出选择,是在夸
我。现在,假如我自己也能意识到这一点,那么我又有了新的角色。

亲人们总是将他们的在即将抉择的那刻提出,然后等待我给出建议。我不喜欢
在这样的情况回答问题,假如说他们愈加僵化,那就等于说自己大无可利用之处了。我
尽可能地做出回答,并祈祷我的建议能对他们有所帮助,然而我又怎能知道所有的事
情?这和给女儿建议不同,给父母建议,就需要设身处地思考。她们向我咨询,就是
对我的信任,正如我一直相信他们那样。

我是一名高中老师,我的学生将会考入大学,或参军,或工作。每天,都会有学生
问我如何规划未来之类的问题,而不是咨询如何学好功课。很多人还未意识到,高中
毕业是人生的关键转折点之一。也的确如此,这些年轻的孩子们正在离开一个占据他
们生命四分之三的时代。

因此,在他们离开校园的那刻,我告诉他们,什么行业是朝阳行业,以及他们要服
什么样的兵役,以便实现自己的梦想。有时,我只告诉这些年轻的孩子——生活是美
好的,他们正处于人生最美好的阶段,即将长大成人,应该说是很幸运的。每次他们
离开时,我都祈祷自己的建议会对他们有所帮助。我知道我只能做到这一点了。

偶尔,素未相识的人也向我征求建议。学生家长常问我怎样做,孩子才会前途光
明。有时也会问,怎样才能让孩子听他们的话或者相信他们。我想,他们之所以问我
,是因为他们确信我知道答案,或者他们看看我的头发变白了,胡子也白了,所以相
信,我这个岁数足以解决这些问题。

韦氏关于“建议”一词的定义,最关键问题是:没考虑建议者。给出建议的人理
解这个问题,能帮忙解决吗?我给过女儿、父母、学生和陌生人正确的答案吗?

我觉得我该打电话给女儿了,向她征求些建议。

美妙英文感悟篇


Word on Advice

Anonymous

Webster defines advice as being, “a recommendation with regard to a course of action.”

The expression, “I need some advice” has to be one of the most horrifying statements in the English language. What makes it remarkably terrifying is that the advisor is usually confronted with it out of the blue and with little or no warning. My daughter is an expert at this. Lately I have been able to predict when she will call. It usually happens when I am having the type of day when everything seems to be going well. I am actually relaxed with few things that have to be done. It is almost as if I send out a signal to her that I am ready for the challenge. The call always begins with the expression, “Dad”. The word is not as important as how it is stated. It sounds like a question being asked by someone who does not want to be heard. In other words, it is a little quieter than a whisper. I know she knows it is I, because she did the calling and I am confident that she knows the sound of my voice. It is almost as if the word is a signal that I had better be ready.

When my daughter was small I looked forward to giving her advice. In fact, I sincerely believe that she also enjoyed it. For the most important thing a Dad can do is get his child ready for life. Not that I ever thought I was ready but at least I have been able to survive my years, so far. She used to sit real close to me or on my lap and I would explain the mysteries of life to her. I would tell her of morals and ethics that made life as good as it can possibly be. Years later, when my daughter hit the wonderful teenaged years, she didn't accept my



advice as she did in the past. In fact, she obviously dreaded it. However, I gave it to her anyway because I wanted her to survive her teenaged years. I survived them so why shouldn't she listen to me and take in the knowledge that I had from the experiences of my past. For years she never came to me for advice but I continued to submit it. Now that I think of it, my father did the same.

Soon, too soon, she left and started her own life. It was as though our separation necessitated that she would once again need, and seek out, my advice. At first this was a good thing, in that I appreciated the fact that she thought my wisdom was worth the time. After a while I came to the realization that I might not always be right. I started to fear my own answers to her questions.

My daughter is not the only person in my life that asks for advice. My wife does it in an odd way. I know she knows the answer to her question but it is almost as though she wants to combine mine with hers. Sometimes when I give her advice she takes it in and basically makes her own decisions. Other times she gives me that odd look that asks, "What planet were you born on?" Either way I do my best.

My parents have started to ask for my advice. This was very difficult for me to understand. Most of my life my father and mother were the ones to direct me on how I should handle certain situations. They were the ones who survived their years so that they could direct me toward correct decisions. Now the roles seem to be reversed. I guess I should take it as a compliment because this shifting of roles means that they have finally come to the realization that I am capable of making correct choices. Now, if I could only believe this same realization and finally relax in my new role.

My folk's questions usually surround their preparation for the final stages of their lives. I hate these situations because, if I admit that they are getting old, I am literally resigning

myself to the fact that I am not far off. I answer their questions as best as I can, praying that I am advising them to do the right things but how could I possibly know? Unlike giving advice to my daughter, giving advice to my parents involves me guessing what to do without the experience of going through what they are presently going through. I guess they ask me because they trust me, like I have always trusted them.

I am a teacher. In fact, I am a high school teacher who works with young adults who are about to embark on careers that include college, the military, or work. Every day I am asked questions concerning how they should organize for their futures, away from a life that centered on their public school. Most people don't realize that graduating from high school is one of the last "rights of passage" our society has. This is true because these young children are leaving a time that had taken up over 75% of their young lives.

So, I advise them as to what industries will be important when they get out of college; what military service they should look into, in order to achieve what they think they want to achieve. Sometimes just to tell these young men and women that life is a wonderful thing and that they are fortunate to be in a stage of their lives where they are about to become adults. Every time they leave I pray that I gave them good advice. I know I did my best.

Sometimes people I don't know ask for my advice. The parents of my students usually ask what they should do to make their child's future bright. Sometimes they ask what they should do because their child doesn't listen or doesn't believe what they are telling them. I assume they ask me because they believe a teacher should know the answers. Either that or they look at my gray hair and beard and believe that my age necessitates my ability to know.

The basic problem with Webster's definition of advice is that it doesn't take into account the advisor. Does the advisor understand the problem and have the ability to help with a decision. In the past, did I give my daughter, parents, students, and strangers the correct advice?

I think I'll give my daughter a call and ask her for some advice!



无条件的母爱

佚名

我曾是个堕落的小丫头,不是一般的被宠坏、自以为是、不愿意打扫房间且自我意识强的那种。不,我不是那样的。我说话刻薄,控制别人的欲望强,还说谎。很早我就知道只要做些小小的变通,就可以随心所欲地操纵局面。就是现在最热门的肥皂剧作家也没能力塑造出比我更坏的角色。

多数时候,从表面上看,我是个好孩子,一个嘻嘻哈哈的假小子,喜欢体育运动,比赛常拿名次。或许正因为如此,尽管我对那些有身份的人任性胡来,他们中的大多数人还是原谅了我。

我很精明,总有办法令别人让着我,所以我不知道我用了多长时间才意识到我伤害了这么多人。我不仅得罪了很多要好的朋友,因为我总试图摆布他们;而且我还一次又一次地践踏了我生活中最珍贵的亲情:母女之情。

即使在我重获新生10年之后的今天,每当我回忆往事,我还是对从前的所作所为深感震惊:我总是用刻薄的话伤害和刺痛其实我最关爱的人,我总用迷茫的举动和愤怒的情绪左右我的行为——而我这么做只是为了顺着性子。

我的母亲是在38岁的时候不顾医生的警告生下我的,她总是哭着对我说,“我等这么长时间才得到你,求你不要推开我,我想帮你。”

而我总会尖刻地回答说:“我没叫你这么做,我从没有想过要你关心我!让我一个人待着,就当我是死了吧!”

美妙英文感悟篇