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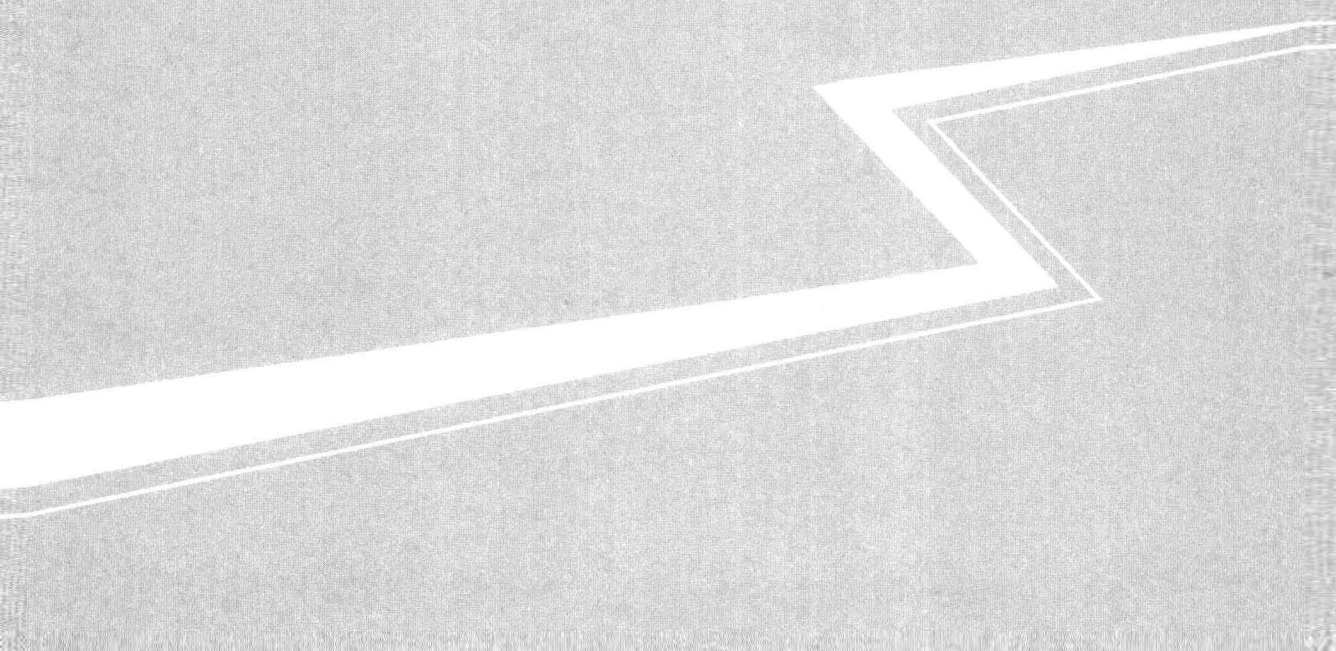
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# **Unit 1**

## **Understanding the Differences**

**Text A Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior**

**Text B Helicopter Moms vs. Free-Range Kids**





# Starter

Read the words aloud first and then do the following task.

knucklehead	<i>n.</i> 【口】呆笨或没有思想的人
hilarious	<i>adj.</i> 极可笑的, 非常滑稽的; 欢闹的, 热闹的
cavalier	<i>adj.</i> 漫不经心的; 无忧无虑的; 傲慢的; 目空一切的
a wet blanket	<i>n.</i> 扫兴的人或物; 讨人嫌的人
lousy	<i>adj.</i> 差劲的; 污秽的
tuck and roll	(体育) 抱膝翻滚

Watch the video clip and fill in the blanks with the words you've heard.

It is our nature to judge the people around us. We judge the way strangers dress, the way our neighbors 1 their lawns and the way our friends act 2. Yes, we make these judgments all the time, never thinking that one day we may be judged ourselves.

Gaby: Girls, what are you doing? Oh, for Pete's sake.

Rachel: ...My arm.

Gaby: What did I tell you about 3 the staircase.

Juanita: Not to use the good suitcase?

Gaby: Besides that. Don't do it at all.

Juanita: Well, what are we supposed to do? You won't let us play on the roof any more.

(Laura is knocking on the door)

Gaby: Hey, Laura!

Laura: What happened?

Gaby: Don't worry, she's OK, these two knuckleheads decide to slide down the staircase.

Laura: Why would you let them do that?

Gaby: Oh, don't 4 me. I wasn't even in this room.

Laura: You left the girls 5?

Gaby: Well, they were playing. Come on, I can't watch them every second.

Laura: Why not? I look after Juanita when she's at my house. And she goes home without a 6.

Gaby: Only 'cause she's indestructible. Honey, do that thing when you run into the wall. Watch. This is 7.

Laura: You are pretty cavalier. Considering your carelessness almost killed my daughter.

Gaby: I gotta say, Laura. You're 8 a wet blanket since you quit smoking. Why don't you try a pipe?



Laura: And I've got to say, Gaby. I think you are a lousy mother.

Gaby: Did you just say that to my face.

Laura: Yes, and I'm afraid I won't be bringing my daughter here anymore. The safety and 9 of my child must come first.

Gaby: Fine. Juanita only had Rachel over because she felt sorry for her. It was a pity playdate.

Laura: And of course this means Rachel won't be attending Juanita's birthday party.

Gaby: More cake for us! Beat it!

Laura: Let's go, sweetie.

Yes, it's in our nature to judge those around us. It's also in our nature ...

Gaby: You know, if you taught your kid how to tuck and roll 10, we wouldn't even be having this conversation.

(From: *Desperate Housewife* S6-5: 00'46"-03'16")



### Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

1. If you were Gaby in the film, what and how would you say to Laura?
2. Do you believe in it that it is in our nature to the people around us or to blame someone else for our mistakes?
3. Do you think Gaby is to blame for Laura's injury? If so, why?
4. Do you celebrate Mother's Day or your mother's or father's birthday in your family? If so, how?
5. Does trust have anything to do with respect? Why or why not?

## Text A

*Can a regimen of no playdates, no TV, no computer games and hours of music practice create happy kids? And what happens when they fight back?*

## Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior

By AMY CHUA

**1** A lot of people wonder how Chinese parents raise such stereotypically successful kids. They wonder what these parents do to produce so many math whizzes and music prodigies, what it's like inside the family, and whether they could do it too. Well, I can tell them, because

I've done it. Here are some things my daughters, Sophia and Louisa, were never allowed to do:

- attending a sleepover
- having a playdate
- being in a school play
- complaining about not being in a school play
- watching TV or play computer games
- choosing their own extracurricular activities
- getting any grade less than an A
- not being the No. 1 student in every subject except gym and drama
- not playing the piano or violin.

**2** I'm using the term "Chinese mother" loosely. I know some Korean, Indian, Jamaican, Irish and Ghanaian parents who qualify too. Conversely, I know some mothers of Chinese heritage, almost always born in the West, who are not Chinese mothers, by choice or otherwise. I'm also using the term "Western parents" loosely. Western parents come in all varieties.

**3** Despite our squeamishness about cultural stereotypes, there are tons of studies showing marked and quantifiable differences between Chinese and Westerners when it comes to parenting.

**4** What Chinese parents understand is that nothing is fun until you're good at it. To get good at anything you have to work, and children on their own never want to work, which is why it is crucial to override their preferences. This often requires fortitude on the part of the parents because the child will resist; things are always hardest at the beginning, which is where Western parents tend to give up. But if done properly, the Chinese strategy produces a virtuous circle. Tenacious practice is crucial for excellence; rote repetition is underrated in America. Once a child starts to excel at something—whether it's math, piano, pitching or ballet—he or she gets praise, admiration and satisfaction. This builds confidence and makes the once not-fun activity fun. This in turn makes it easier for the parent to get the child to work even more.

**5** Chinese parents can get away with things that Western parents can't. Once when I was young—maybe more than once—when I was extremely disrespectful to my mother, my father angrily called me "garbage" in our native Hokkien dialect. It worked really well. I felt terrible and deeply ashamed of what I had done. But it didn't damage my self-esteem or anything like that. I knew exactly how highly he thought of me. I didn't actually think I was worthless or feel like a piece of garbage.

**6** As an adult, I once did the same thing to Sophia, calling her garbage in English when she acted extremely disrespectfully toward me. When I mentioned that I had done this at a dinner party, I was immediately ostracized. One guest got so upset she broke down in tears and had to leave early. My friend, the host, tried to rehabilitate me with the remaining guests.

**7** The fact is that Chinese parents can do things that would seem unimaginable—even



legally actionable—to Westerners. Chinese mothers can say to their daughters, “Hey fatty—lose some weight.” By contrast, Western parents have to tiptoe around the issue, talking in terms of “health” and never ever mentioning the f-word, and their kids still end up in therapy for eating disorders and negative self-image.

**8** Chinese parents can order their kids to get straight As. Western parents can only ask their kids to try their best. Chinese parents can say, “You’re lazy. All your classmates are getting ahead of you.” By contrast, Western parents have to struggle with their own conflicted feelings about achievement, and try to persuade themselves that they’re not disappointed about how their kids turned out.

**9** I’ve thought long and hard about how Chinese parents can get away with what they do. I think there are three big differences between the Chinese and Western parental mind-sets.

**10** First, I’ve noticed that Western parents are extremely anxious about their children’s self-esteem. They worry about how their children will feel if they fail at something, and they constantly try to reassure their children about how good they are notwithstanding a mediocre performance on a test or at a recital. In other words, Western parents are concerned about their children’s psyches. Chinese parents aren’t. They assume strength, not fragility, and as a result they behave very differently.

**11** For example, if a child comes home with an A-minus on a test, a Western parent will most likely praise the child. The Chinese mother will gasp in horror and ask what went wrong. If the child comes home with a B on the test, some Western parents will still praise the child. Other Western parents will sit their child down and express disapproval, but they will be careful not to make their child feel inadequate or insecure, and they will not call their child “stupid,” “worthless” or “a disgrace.” Privately, the Western parents may worry that their child does not test well or have aptitude in the subject or that there is something wrong with the curriculum and possibly the whole school. If the child’s grades do not improve, they may eventually schedule a meeting with the school principal to challenge the way the subject is being taught or to call into question the teacher’s credentials.

**12** If a Chinese child gets a B—which would never happen—there would first be a screaming, hair-tearing explosion. The devastated Chinese mother would then get dozens, maybe hundreds of practice tests and work through them with her child for as long as it takes to get the grade up to an A.

**13** Chinese parents demand perfect grades because they believe their child can get them. If their child doesn’t get them, the Chinese parent assumes it’s because the child didn’t work hard enough. That’s why the solution to substandard performance is always to excoriate, punish and shame the child. The Chinese parent believes that their child will be strong enough to take the shaming and to improve from it.

**14** Second, Chinese parents believe that their kids owe them everything. The reason for this is a little unclear, but it’s probably a combination of Confucian filial piety and the fact that

the parents have sacrificed and done so much for their children. Anyway, the understanding is that Chinese children must spend their lives repaying their parents by obeying them and making them proud.

**15** By contrast, I don't think most Westerners have the same view of children being permanently indebted to their parents. My husband, Jed, actually has the opposite view. "Children don't choose their parents," he once said to me. "They don't even choose to be born. It's parents who foist life on their kids, so it's the parents' responsibility to provide for them. Kids don't owe their parents anything. Their duty will be to their own kids." This strikes me as a terrible deal for the Western parent.

**16** Third, Chinese parents believe that they know what is best for their children and therefore override all of their children's own desires and preferences. That's why Chinese daughters can't have boyfriends in high school and why Chinese kids can't go to sleep-away camp. It's also why no Chinese kid would ever dare say to their mother, "I got a part in the school play! I'm Villager Number Six. I'll have to stay after school for rehearsal every day from 3:00 to 7:00, and I'll also need a ride on weekends." God help any Chinese kid who tried that one.

**17** Don't get me wrong: It's not that Chinese parents don't care about their children. Just the opposite. They would give up anything for their children. It's just an entirely different parenting model.

**18** Western parents try to respect their children's individuality, encouraging them to pursue their true passions, supporting their choices, and providing positive reinforcement and a nurturing environment. By contrast, the Chinese believe that the best way to protect their children is by preparing them for the future, letting them see what they're capable of, and arming them with skills, work habits and inner confidence that no one can ever take away.

(1,373 words)



### New Words

**stereotypical** /ˌsteriə'tipikl/ *adj.* lacking originality or individuality 带有成见的

**whiz** /hwiz/ *n.* someone who is dazzlingly skilled in any field 能手; 专家; 优秀的学生; 有吸引力的东西

**prodigy** /'prɒdɪdʒi/ *n.* an unusually gifted or intelligent (young) person 天才; 奇才; 神童

**sleepover** /'sli:pəʊvə/ *n.* an occasion when someone, especially a child, sleeps for one night in a place such as a friend's home (尤指孩子) 不在家过夜

**playdate** /'pleideit/ *n.* (影片等的) 上映期



- extracurricular** /'ekstrəkə'rikjulə/ *adj.* 学校课程以外的; 课外的
- gym** /dʒim/ *n.* the activity of doing physical exercises in a gym, especially at school 健身; (尤指学校的) 体育活动
- qualify** /'kwɒlifai/ *v.* to prove capable or fit; to meet requirements (通过考试) 取得资格, 合格, 达到标准
- conversely** /'kɒnvə:sli/ *adv.* 相反地
- heritage** /'heritidʒ/ *n.* sth. which one receives by right from an old member of the family 遗产; 继承物
- squeamish** /'skwi:mɪʃ/ *adj.* excessively fastidious and easily disgusted 易恶心的; 易受惊的; 过分正经的; 过分拘谨
- quantifiable** /'kwɒntifaɪəbl/ *adj.* capable of being quantified 可以计量的
- override** /əʊvə'raɪd/ *vt.* to disregard or set aside (sb.'s opinions, decisions, wishes, claims, etc.); to take precedence over 不顾, 不理; 优先于, 压倒
- fortitude** /'fɔ:tɪtju:d/ *n.* strength of mind that enables one to endure adversity with courage 刚毅; 坚毅; 不屈不挠
- virtuous** /'vɜ:tʃuəs/ *adj.* morally excellent 有品德的; 有德行的; 贞洁的
- tenacious** /tə'neɪʃəs/ *adj.* stubbornly unyielding 顽强的, 坚韧的
- underrated** /ʌndə'reɪtɪd/ *adj.* 低估的
- rote** /rəʊt/ *n.* 死记硬背; 机械的做法 *adj.* 死记硬背的; 机械的
- pitch** /pɪtʃ/ *v.* to throw (a ball, etc.) 投; 掷; 扔
- disrespectful** /,dɪsɪs'pektfʊl/ *adj.* 无礼的; 不尊敬的
- self-esteem** /self i'sti:m/ *n.* a feeling of pride in oneself 自尊; 自负
- ostracize** /'ɔ:trəsaɪz/ *vt.* to expel from a community or group; to avoid speaking to or dealing with 放逐; 排斥
- rehabilitate** /,rɪ:hə'bɪlaɪt/ *vt.* to put back into good condition; to restore 使恢复原状; 修复
- actionable** /'ækʃənəbəl/ *adj.* 可起诉的; 可控告的; 可行的
- tiptoe** /'tɪp,təʊ/ *n.* the tip of a toe 脚尖
- therapy** /'θerəpi/ *n.* the treatment of illnesses of the mind or body, especially without drugs or operations 治疗; 疗法; 疗效; 心理治疗
- mind-set** /maɪnd set/ *n.* a habitual or characteristic mental attitude that determines how you will interpret and respond to situations 思想倾向; 心态
- reassure** /,rɪ:ə'sjuə/ *v.* remove the fears or doubts of (使) 安心
- notwithstanding** /,nɒtwɪð'stændɪŋ/ *prep.* in spite of 尽管
- mediocre** /,mi:di'əʊkə/ *adj.* of average quality 平庸的; 平凡的
- assume** /ə'sju:m/ *vt.* to take as true before there is proof; to pretend to be; to take up or in 假定, 猜想; 假装; 承担

**fragility** /frə'dʒɪləti/ *n.* 脆弱, 虚弱; 易碎性; 脆性; 脆弱性

**gasp** /gɑːsp/ *vi.* to struggle for breath; to take short quick breaths as a fish does out of water; to utter in a breathless way 喘气; 喘息, 倒抽气; 喘着气说出

**horror** /'hɒrə/ *n.* feeling of intense fear or dismay; terror 恐怖, 恐惧, 惊恐

**inadequate** /in'ædɪkwɪt/ *adj.* not enough; not having the qualities and abilities necessary to do something 不充足的; 不适当的; 不足胜任的; 信心不足的

**insecure** /ɪn'sɪkjʊə/ *adj.* not safe; not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way; lacking self-confidence or assurance 不安全的; 不稳固的; 不可靠的; 缺乏安全感的; 缺乏信心的

**principal** /'prɪnsəpəl/ *adj.* first in order of importance 首要的; 最主要的; 最重要的  
*n.* the person in charge of the school or college 校长

**credential** /kri'denʃəl/ *n.* a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts 国书; 凭据; 文凭

**devastate** /devə'steɪt/ *vt.* to cause extensive destruction or ruin utterly; to overwhelm or overpower 毁坏; 使荒芜; 使震惊

**substandard** /sʌb'stændəd/ *adj.* falling short of some prescribed norm 标准以下的; 不合规格的

**excoriate** /ɪk'skɔːri.eɪt/ *vt.* to express strong disapproval of; to tear or wear off the skin or make sore by abrading 严厉批评; 撕去皮

**owe** /əu/ *vt.* to have to pay; to be in debt for; to be indebted to as the source of 欠, 应当给予; 感激; 把……归功于

**filial** /'fɪli:əl/ *adj.* 子女的; 孝顺的

**piety** /'paɪəti/ *n.* 虔诚; 孝顺

**sacrifice** /'sækrɪfaɪs/ *vt.* to endure the loss of, give up, usually to obtain something else for yourself or for other people 牺牲

**permanent** /'pɜːmənənt/ *adj.* lasting or intended to last for a long time or forever 永久(性)的, 永恒的; 持久的, 永远的

**indebt** /ɪn'det/ *vt.* 使负债; 使受惠

**rehearsal** /ri'hæsəl/ *n.* a practice session in preparation for a public performance (as of a play or speech or concert) 排练; 彩排

**individuality** /ɪndəˌvɪdʒuː'ælɪti/ *n.* the quality of being individual 个性; 个人特征

**reinforcement** /ˌriːɪn'fɔːsmənt/ *n.* 增强; 加固



## Phrases and Expressions

on the part of	就……而言
excel at	突出; 擅长于
get away with	侥幸逃脱 (惩罚)
break down	发生故障; 失败; 感情失控
call into question	怀疑; 对……表示异议
foist ... on	把……强加于
provide for	为……作准备; 供给
be capable of	有能力, 能够



## Proper Names

**Amy Chua** /æmi kuə/ 蔡美儿 (人名)

**Sophia** /sə'faɪə/ 索菲娅 (人名)

**Louisa** /lu(:)'i:zə/ 路易丝 (人名)

**Korean** /kə'ri:ən/ *n. & adj.* 朝鲜 (人) 的; 韩国 (人) 的; 韩国 (语) 的

**Jamaican** /dʒə'meɪkən/ *n. & adj.* 牙买加人 (的)

**Irish** /'aɪərɪʃ/ *adj.* 爱尔兰的; *n.* 爱尔兰人; 爱尔兰语

**Ghanaian** /gə'neiən/ *n.* 加纳人 *adj.* 加纳 (人) 的

**Hokkien** also called Fulaohua, is a dialect of Min Nan Chinese spoken in southern Fujian, Taiwan, and by many overseas Chinese throughout Southeast Asia 东南亚华人对“闽南语”的称呼, 也就是“福建话”。

**Confucian** /kən'fju:ʃən/ 孔子的; 儒教的



## Comprehension of the Text

**A Choose the best item to answer the questions.**

- Which of the following might Amy Chua readily permit her daughters to do?
  - Staying behind after school for rehearsing “Snow White”.
  - Entering for an instrument competition at Carnegie Hall.
  - Joining in a summer camp with their schoolmates.
  - Watching a 3D Disney film on a weekday.
- Why does Amy Chua say she's using the term “Chinese mother” loosely?

- a. Amy Chua's parenting style is not limited to Chinese families.
  - b. Amy Chua's parenting style represents a traditional way of parenting among immigrants seeking a better future for their children.
  - c. Some mothers of Chinese heritage, almost always born in the West, do not fit into the type.
  - d. All of the above.
3. Which of the following is NOT stated in the text?
- a. If their children failed to get straight A's on the test, Chinese parents would fly into a rage and call them "garbage".
  - b. Western parents tend to concern more about their children's own interests and psychological needs.
  - c. Most Chinese parents assume that their children should be indebted to them as they had sacrificed a lot for their growth.
  - d. Chinese parents tend to believe they can raise such successful children by denying them play dates and sleepovers, and demanding that they bring home straight A's.
4. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the sentence "*By contrast, Western parents have to tiptoe around the issue.*" in Paragraph 7?
- a. As compared with Chinese parents, Western parent have to get away with the question.
  - b. Unlike Chinese parents, Western parents have to stay away from the matter in question.
  - c. Different from Chinese parents, Western parents have to be very cautious about the matter in question.
  - d. Contrary to Chinese parents, Western parents have to find a way out to settle the problem.
5. Which of the following do you think is NOT characteristic of Amy's parenting model?
- a. Authoritative.
  - b. Kind of extreme.
  - c. Sort of democratic.
  - d. More than a little rigid.

**B** Text A is developed by analysis using comparison and contrast. Basically, a comparison sets forth the similarity or similarities between two or more things of the same kind, while a contrast the differences between them. In a comparison and contrast essay, you spend time either comparing or contrasting, depending on the purpose of writing. In this text, the emphasis is on contrast.

Now you are supposed to write down differences in the parental styles between Chinese and Western parents.

Points for Contrast	Chinese Parents	Western Parents
Parenting Mind-sets		





## Working with Words and Phrases

**A** Fill in each of the blanks in the following sentences with a word chosen from the box given below, and change the form if necessary.

aptitude  
stereotype

nurture  
sacrifice

mediocre  
permanent

tenacious  
pursue

foist  
assume

1. The newly appointed manager doesn't conform to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the city businessman with a dark suit, polished shoes and a dark leather bag.
2. He is pretty \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to standing up for his rights.
3. He was taken on for a three-month trial period before being accepted as a \_\_\_\_\_ member of staff.
4. You know practice makes perfect. So if you don't keep on practicing, you can only become a \_\_\_\_\_ soccer player.
5. We must \_\_\_\_\_ him to be innocent until he is proved guilty.
6. The student shows an amazing \_\_\_\_\_ for mathematics and physics.
7. She's determined to \_\_\_\_\_ her studies abroad after she obtains her bachelorship.
8. He's religious but he doesn't try to \_\_\_\_\_ his beliefs on everyone.
9. To be frank, success in your job is not worth the \_\_\_\_\_ of your health.
10. The kind-hearted dust-woman \_\_\_\_\_ the child and sent him into college as if he had been her own.

**B** Fill in each of the following blanks with a preposition or an adverb.

1. When Ellen got home, it was almost midnight. She opened the door quietly, and walked \_\_\_\_\_ tiptoe into her bedroom for fear of waking her daughter who was lying asleep.
2. Contrary to our expectation, the race car broke \_\_\_\_\_ halfway for no particular reason.
3. The trains are so fast that the passengers complain \_\_\_\_\_ not being able to see any of the beautiful scenery.
4. Though friends for many years, they finally ended \_\_\_\_\_ enemies.
5. We're indebted \_\_\_\_\_ Zhuhai Chamber of Commerce of Importers & Exporters for your name and address.
6. Although it looked like rain this morning, it has turned \_\_\_\_\_ to be a nice day.
7. Dukakis has a history of enduring, even excelling \_\_\_\_\_ hardball campaigns.
8. Elaine was such a quiet girl, but then I should have known that still waters run deep. It wasn't until after we were married that I realized what depths of emotion she was capable \_\_\_\_\_.

9. It's wise of you to save some money and provide \_\_\_\_\_ the future.

10. I don't feel \_\_\_\_\_ going to the theater. Let's take a walk instead.



## Reading and Interpreting

**Work in pairs. Read the sentences from the passage and answer the questions.**

1. Tenacious practice is crucial for excellence; rote repetition is underrated in America.

Q: Do you think rote learning is an effective way of learning English? Why or Why not?

2. When I mentioned that I had done this at a dinner party, I was immediately ostracized.

Q: How did the guests react to her words at the party?

3. My friend, the host, tried to rehabilitate me with the remaining guests.

Q: If you were the host, what would you do to relax the embarrassing situation?

4. They assume strength, not fragility, and as a result they behave very differently.

Q: What are Chinese parents more concerned about as compared with Western parents, who are concerned about their kids' psyche?

5. If the child's grades do not improve, they may eventually schedule a meeting with the school principal to challenge the way the subject is being taught or to call into question the teacher's credentials.

Q: Do you think it is common in China?

6. Western parents try to respect their children's individuality, encouraging them to pursue their true passions, supporting their choices, and providing positive reinforcement and a nurturing environment.

Q: What is your opinion about Western parents' attitudes toward their children? Do your parents respect your individuality?



## Reading in Depth

**In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word list following the passage. Read the passage carefully before making your choices. Do not use any of the words or expressions in the list more than once.**

Americans are proud of their variety and individuality, yet they love and respect few things more than a uniform. Why are uniforms so 1 in the United States?

Among the arguments for uniforms, one of the first is that in the eyes of most people they look more 2 than civilian (平民的、百姓的) clothes. People have become conditioned to 3 superior quality from a man who wears a uniform. The television repairman who wears a uniform tends to 4 more trust than one who appears in civilian clothes. Faith in



the 5 of a garage mechanic is increased by a uniform. What an easier way is there for a nurse, a policeman, a barber, or a waiter to 6 professional identity (身份) than to step out of uniform? Uniforms also have many 7 benefits. They save on other clothes. They save on laundry bills. They are often more comfortable and more durable than civilian clothes.

Primary among the arguments against uniforms is their lack of variety and the consequent loss of 8 experienced by people who must wear them. Though there are many types of uniforms, the wearer of any particular type is generally stuck with it, without 9, until retirement. When people look alike, they tend to think, speak, and act 10, on the job at least.

- |              |                |                 |                  |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| A. kill      | B. popular     | C. professional | D. change        |
| E. similarly | F. recall      | G. character    | H. practical     |
| I. inspire   | J. differently | K. expect       | L. individuality |
| M. get       | N. lose        | O. ordinary     |                  |



## Translation

### A Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. To get good at anything you have to work, and children on their own never want to work, which is why it is crucial to override their preferences.
2. Tenacious practice is crucial for excellence; rote repetition is underrated in America.
3. If the child's grades do not improve, they may eventually schedule a meeting with the school principal to challenge the way the subject is being taught or to call into question the teacher's credentials.
4. By contrast, Western parents have to struggle with their own conflicted feelings about achievement, and try to persuade themselves that they're not disappointed about how their kids turned out.
5. It's parents who foist life on their kids, so it's the parents' responsibility to provide for them.
6. Chinese parents believe that they know what is best for their children and therefore override all of their children's own desires and preferences.

### B Translate the following sentences into English.

1. 由于双方互不退让, 因此会谈无果而终。(end up)
2. 就财富或金钱而言他很富有, 但就幸福来说就不然了。(in terms of)
3. 我们觉得这个计划切实可行。(strike)
4. 现代企业为增强其竞争优势而日益重视产品和服务的创新。(think highly of)
5. 他犯了那么严重的过失, 却侥幸只交罚款了事。(get away with)



## Critical Thinking

Work in pairs and discuss the following questions.

1. Is hardwork the only important thing if you would like to be an “A” student? Why or why not?
2. Do you think extracurricular activities do help to be an “A” student?
3. People in the west prefer individualism while Chinese people tend to favor harmonious conformity, what do you think of the cultural differences? And how to bridge the cultural gap?
4. What should we do to maintain a good relationship with our parents? What is considered important to have that relationship? Why?



## Interaction

Watch the video clip first and then strike a debate with your partner around the topic “Compromise is a good way to settle a disagreement” **against** “Compromise is not a good way to settle a disagreement”.

## Text B

Would you let your fourth-grader ride public transportation without an adult? Probably not. Still, when Lenore Skenazy, a columnist for the *New York Sun*, wrote about letting her son take the subway alone to get back to her Manhattan home from a department store on the Upper East Side, she didn't expect to get hit with a wave of criticism from readers.

### Helicopter Moms vs. Free-Range Kids

**1** “Long story short: My son got home, ecstatic with independence,” Skenazy wrote on April 4 in *The New York Sun*. “Long story longer: Half the people I’ve told this episode to now want to turn me in for child abuse. As if keeping kids under lock and key and helmet and cell phone and nanny and surveillance is the right way to rear kids. It’s not. It’s debilitating—for us and for them.”

**2** Online message boards were soon swarming with people both applauding and condemning Skenazy’s decision to let her son go it alone. She wound up defending herself on the cable news networks (accompanied by her son) and on popular blogs like the Huffington Post, where her follow-up piece was ironically headlined “More From America’s Worst Mom.”

**3** The episode has ignited another one of those debates that divides parents into vocal opposing camps. Are modern parents needlessly overprotective, or is the world a more complicated and dangerous place than it was when previous generations were allowed to roam unsupervised?

**4** From the “she’s an irresponsible mother” camp came: “Shame on you for being so cavalier with his safety,” in comments on *The Huffington Post*. And there was this from a mother of four: “How would you have felt if he didn’t come home?” But Skenazy got a lot of support, too, with women and men writing in with stories about how they were allowed to run errands all by themselves at seven or eight. She also got heaps of praise for bucking the “helicopter parent” trend: “Kudos to this Mom,” one commenter wrote on *The Huffington Post*. “This is a much-needed reality check.”

**5** Last week, buoyed by all the attention, Skenazy started her own blog—Free Range Kids—promoting the idea that modern children need some of the same independence that her generation had. In the good old days nine-year-old baby boomers rode their bikes to school, walked to the store, took buses—and even subways—all by themselves. Her blog, she says, is dedicated to sane parenting. “At Free Range Kids, we believe in safe kids. We believe in helmets, car seats and safety belts. We do NOT believe that every time school-age children go