

ISSUE 8

Do You Get Along Well with Your Parents?

Our first major choice in life is who our parents are. This determines the fundamental aspects of our very identity: our name, our status, our genes. These factors will influence us until we die, so the relationships we maintain with our closest relations is important.

How well do you get along with your parents?

- (1) Very well
- (2) So-so
- (3) Indifferently
- (4) Not so well



-determine : settle or decide (sth) firmly and conclusively

-fundamental : of great importance; essential

-relation : member of one's family; relative

-indifferent : lacking interest in (sth) or lacking sympathy with (sb)

-identity : condition of being oneself

Sample Answers

(A) My parents and I have gone in different directions since I was about ten. No matter how much we love each other or how hard we try to live together peacefully, we have fundamentally different ideas about how I should live my life. I hope someday they accept me for who I am instead of trying to make me into who they think I should be. (Or, to be fair, maybe someday I will recognize their wisdom in trying to change my attitudes and lifestyle.) But I doubt it.

(B) Ever since I left home and moved to a different city, my parents and I have gradually *drifted apart*. We see each other on major holidays and talk to each other on the phone from time to time, but we just are not as close as we used to be. I miss the good old days, when they were a constant source of *inspiration* and advice.

Speak Your Mind

1. How often do you visit your parents?
2. How much money do you give your parents (if any)? How much do they give you?
3. Do you always vacation with your parents?
4. What do you do for a special day such as a parent's birthday or wedding anniversary?
5. Do you think your parents are proud of you? Why or why not?
6. What is the most important lesson you learned from your parents?
7. Do you expect an *inheritance* from your parents? Why or why not?
8. Will you financially support your parents when they retire or become unable to pay for themselves?
9. Would you move aged or ill parents into your home? What about sending them to a *nursing home*?
10. Do your parents have strong opinions about how you should live your own life?

→ **drift apart** : gradually lose interest in or affection for each other

→ **inspiration** : feeling of encouragement or uplift

→ **inheritance** : property or money received upon (sb's) death

→ **nursing home** : institution where old people live when they are too old or sick to care for themselves without help

10. Do your parents have strong opinions about how you should live your own life?

M : I'm an adult, aren't I?

F : Well, you look like one anyway. Sometimes I'm not so sure that you act like one. Why do you ask?

M : My parents still treat me like a child. They don't think I can make any decisions on my own.

F : It's what parents do. No matter how old or successful you become, to them you'll always be their little boy.

M : But I'm not a little boy! They did a good job raising me to be a *self-reliant, capable* human being, but they never recognize how well they did. They still want to control my life.

F : I think you should consider yourself very fortunate. Once I left home, my parents left me entirely on my own. Now even when I try to get their advice, they tell me to solve my own problems.

M : Well, I think you do a pretty good job of taking care of yourself.

F : I think so too, but it's not like I have any choice. I have to rely on my own *initiative*, since I don't have anyone else to *lean on*.

M : It's odd, isn't it? We're both basically well-adjusted, self-motivated people, with loving parents. But I wish mine would leave me alone more often, and you want yours to be more involved in your decision-making.

F : I guess there's another possibility, as well. Maybe in both of our cases, our parents *intervene* to the same degree, but we both overreact. You *resent* any interference at all, and I never feel I get enough involvement.

M : Hmmmm. Maybe you have a point. I don't think that's true, but it's something to think about.

