

### **Task 3 – Reading into Writing: Strict or Relaxed Parents?**

#### **At a glance**

**Level:** ISE I

**Focus:** Task 3 – Reading into writing

**Aims:** To read information on a topic, write opinions and give advice

**Objectives:** To ask and answer questions on the topic; to learn vocabulary related to the topic; to read for gist; to read for specific information; to discuss opinions on the topic with peers; to write down an outline of opinions and advice; to write one paragraph expressing opinions and advice and to demonstrate understanding of topic by completing written work for homework

**Skill:** Reading for gist and specific information; writing a short article based on a reading text

**Topic:** Parenting styles: strict or relaxed

**Language functions:** Expressing opinions, giving advice and giving reasons

**Lexis:** Related to aspects of parenting

**Materials needed:** Student worksheet

**Timing:** 60 minutes

#### **Procedure**

##### **Preparation**

Print one student worksheet per student.

##### **In class**

1. Explain that the lesson is preparation for Task 3 – Reading into writing of the ISE I Reading & Writing exam. Write '*Strict or relaxed parents: which is better?*' on the board. Give the class three or four examples of strict parents and relaxed parents. For example, strict parents may make you come home at a fixed time and relaxed parents may let you have your friends to stay a lot and let you play loud music. Ask the class for other examples.
2. Write these questions on the board.

*'What time did you have to be home when you were younger?'*

*'Could you wear any clothes you wanted to?'*

*'Did your parents make you do your homework?'*

*'Were your parents strict or relaxed?'*

For a stronger class, you could dictate the questions.

Tell each learner to ask four people these four questions and to write down their answers. Get feedback from the class and write some examples of strict and relaxed parenting on the board.

3. Teach the words and phrases:

*To behave*

*Behaviour*

*To follow the rules*

*To punish*

*Punishment*

*Self-discipline*

Write the words on the board and practise the pronunciation.

4. Tell the class they are going to read an article about strict and relaxed parents and which kind is better. Give out the student worksheet and tell the class to look at question 1. Give the class five minutes to read the text and find the answer. Get class feedback. Tell the class to re-read the text and find the answers to question 2 (True or False). Let the class check in pairs and then get all the answers.
5. Tell the class that a local nursery school wants to prepare a short article called *'Ideas for Good Parents'* to give out to parents. The class must write an article (100-130 words) giving their opinion and advice about whether parents should be strict or relaxed, based on the article they have read. The best article in the class will be chosen by the nursery school to give to parents.
6. Tell the class they need to write the article in three parts:
- 1. Introduction (what the article is about)*
  - 2. Five ideas about what parents can try to do to be good parents and why*
  - 3. Then a conclusion (giving their ideas about whether strict or relaxed parents are better).*

Put this template on the board.

7. Ask the class:

*'What do you think good parents should do for their children?'*

Get some ideas from the class. Ask:

*'Which words do we use to give our opinions?'*

And elicit:

*'I think/I believe/ In my opinion'.*

Write these phrases on the board. Get the learners to copy them down. Ask the class which modal verbs we can use to give advice.

Elicit:

*Parents should.../shouldn't*

*Parents ought to...*

*Parents need to.../don't need to*

Write the phrases on the board. Put learners into pairs and get them to write five ideas for good parenting on their Worksheets.

8. When they finish, elicit one opinion and write it on the board but do not complete the sentence. For example:

*'I believe parents should give their children a rule about traffic...'*

Ask: *'Why is this good advice?'*

Elicit an explanation and complete the sentence with, for example:

*'because this keeps children safe.'*

Elicit another opinion and reason and make a second sentence with *'because'*.

9. Tell the class to write a two sentence introduction saying what their article is about. Give the class five minutes to write the introduction.
10. Tell the class to look at the five ideas they have written and to start writing the second paragraph of the article, giving two pieces of advice. Give the class eight minutes to write. Get each pair to read their partner's introduction and paragraph and tell their partner to point any areas where they could improve. You could ask the students to focus on spelling and grammar.
11. Tell the class that they must write the rest of the article for homework.

**Extension activity**

1. To write down and learn any other new words/ expressions in the article they have read.
2. To complete as much of the article as possible in class time.

**Further support activity**

1. Put at least five ideas about strict and relaxed parenting clearly on the board.
2. Put up one more example sentence with '*because*'.

**Homework**

Ask the class to complete the 100-130 word article about '*Ideas for Good Parents*' for homework.

**Student Worksheet**

**Task 3 – Reading into Writing:**  
**Strict or Relaxed Parents?**

**1. Read the text below and decide if strict or relaxed parenting is better?**

Strict parents and relaxed parents are at the opposite ends of the parenting scale.

**Strict Control or Relaxed Warmth**

When a parent controls his or her child's behaviour, he or she always decides what the child is going to do and how the child is going to do it, without asking the child what he or she thinks or wants. A controlling parent also makes many rules and wants his or her child to follow the rules. If the child does not behave the way that the parent wants, then the child may be punished. Strict parents get angry when their children do not do what the parents want.

On the other hand, a relaxed parent does not usually make rules. The relaxed parent does not worry if the child does not follow a rule. These parents do not try to change the child. The relaxed parents help their children if they have a problem

**Self-Discipline - managing your own behaviour**

However, both strict and relaxed parents stop children from learning self-discipline, in other words, how the children manage their own behaviour. Strict parents make decisions and these help children to behave for a short time but it does not give the child an opportunity to solve problems or learn how to manage him or herself. Relaxed parents also have children who do not know how to manage themselves. This is because if the child behaves badly, the relaxed parents are never angry, so the child does not learn that his or her behaviour is wrong.

**Power and Safety**

Children of strict parents learn that power is important and that the parent has all the power. When their children become teenagers, the teenagers often get angry about how much power their parents have and

how little they have. Relaxed parents, however, often don't make rules about safety, for example, not running across the road without looking to

see if cars are coming, which sends the message that they don't care enough to be sure the child is safe. The child then behaves badly to try to make their parents give rules, which show the parents care.

**Strict and relaxed parents can both make problems for children**

Parenting styles can influence how well children do at school and how happy they are. Relaxed parents often have children who are happy to be average students at school. Strict parents often have children who worry and feel unhappy a lot of the time.

**2. Now read the article again and write T if the statement is True and F if the statement is False.**

1. A controlling parent allows his or her children to make his/her own decisions.
2. Relaxed parents try to change how their children behave.
3. Both strict and relaxed parents help children learn how to manage their own behaviour.
4. The children of strict parents are powerful.
5. Relaxed parents don't seem to care about whether their children are safe
6. Relaxed parents often have children who are top of the class.

**Reading into Writing**

The local nursery school wants to give information about how to be a good parent. They have asked everyone in the class to write an article of 100-130 words. They will choose the best article to give to parents.

With a partner, decide on five points that, in your opinion, give good advice for new parents.

Planning notes:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Write the introduction part of your article (about 20 words).

**Ideas for Good Parents**

Introduction

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Give your opinion and advice about being a good parent (look at your planning notes above). Say why the advice is good.

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Conclusion (say whether you think strict or relaxed parents are better)

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Get your partner to check what you have written. Complete the article for homework.

## **Model Article**

### **Good Ideas for Parents**

I have read about strict and relaxed parents. In this article I will give my opinion about good parents.

Parents shouldn't try to change their children because children are happy that their parents accept them the way they are. Parents shouldn't give too many rules because children need to learn how to solve problems. Parents ought to get angry sometimes if a child is wrong because the child needs to learn good behaviour. Parents ought to let children make decisions because children need to learn to manage him or herself. Parents shouldn't be very powerful because teenagers can get angry that they have very little power.

It is not good to be very strict or very relaxed. I think good parents are a little strict and a little relaxed.

**Answer Key** (Student Worksheet)

1. Neither is better. Both strict and relaxed parents have negative effects on their children.
  
2.
  1. F
  2. F
  3. F
  4. T
  5. T
  6. F

Original Source:

<http://www.livestrong.com/article/560034-strict-vs-permissive-parenting/>