

# Chat Room for Teens 3

includes more than 500 questions

- that are related to teenage concerns
- that provide practical, interesting vocabularies and expressions
- that are easy to apply in any situation

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## LESSON 21 I Don't Understand Adults

### — Warm-up Dialog —

#### Just Checking

Joanna : Dad, do you really love me?

Dad : Of course I do! Don't you think that's a silly question?

Joanna : It's always a good idea to be sure about other people's feelings. One can never be too careful, you know.

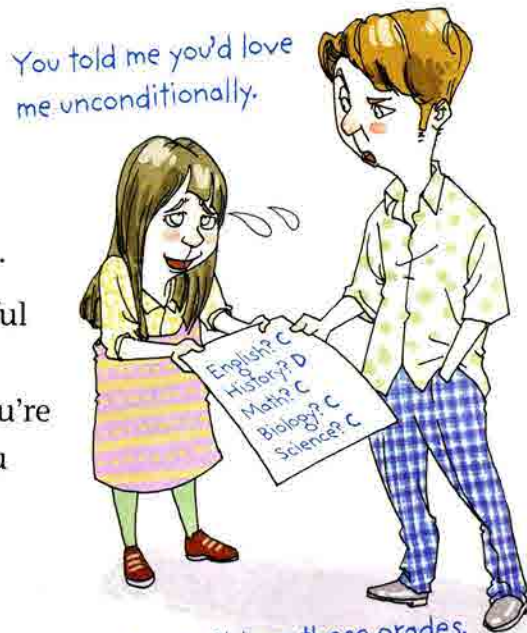
Dad : Have I ever let you down? Didn't I go to your piano recital last month, even though I had to postpone a project at work?

Joanna : Of course you did! And you told me that my performance was very good.

Dad : Of course it was. You practiced very hard.

Joanna : And you've always supported me when I wanted to play football.

Dad : You could be a wonderful striker if you were just a little bit faster. But you're still young. I'm sure you



Yes, I love you. But I don't love these grades.



will be the best player on your team before you graduate.

**Joanna** : Thanks. I need that boost of confidence.

**Dad** : That's what dads are for. Your mom and I love you no matter what. You know that, don't you?

**Joanna** : I sure hope so!

**Dad** : What's this all about?

**Joanna** : My grades are not so hot this time, and before I gave you my report card I just wanted to make sure you loved me unconditionally, not only when I'm doing well.

## • Questions

1. In what ways does Joanna's father support her?
2. What abilities does she have?
3. What is she concerned about?

# Pictures



- Q1: Does your dad often come home late? What about your mom?
- Q2: Do you want your dad to come home earlier? Why or why not?
- Q3: What does your mom say when your dad comes home late?

- 2.
- Q1: Does your dad smoke? Does he sometimes smoke indoors?
  - Q2: What do you think about smoking?
  - Q3: Do you know anyone who has ever tried to quit smoking? What happened? Did that person succeed?



3.



- Q1: How often do your parents drink? With whom?
- Q2: Why do adults drink alcohol? Why are kids discouraged from drinking?
- Q3: Have your parents ever driven when drunk? What happened?

- 4.
- Q1: Do you believe them when adults say, "I will always love you"?
  - Q2: Do you believe it when they say, "I'm too busy"?
  - Q3: Do you believe them telling you, "I forgot"?



5.



- Q1: Do your parents ever gossip? If so, about what?
- Q2: Do you think gossiping is good or bad?
- Q3: Do kids gossip? About what?

- 6.
- Q1: What do your parents do on weekends?
  - Q2: Many parents mainly just watch TV and sleep on weekends. What do you think about that?
  - Q3: What would you like your parents to do on weekends?





# LESSON 21 I Don't Understand Adults

## — Answer Me —

### • 1 Inconsistency

Dad : I don't understand how you got in trouble at school.

Maura : I'm sorry. I just wanted to come home early, that's all.

Dad : But you know what the rules are! You should obey them.

Maura : Dad! Watch out!

Dad : What's wrong?

Maura : You just ran a red light!

Dad : I know. But there wasn't anyone coming.

Maura : But you know what the rules are. You should obey them!



### • Questions

1. Do your parents usually obey traffic laws? If not, which ones do they break?
2. Do you understand why some people break the law? Are they ever justified?
3. Why should we obey the law? Are there some times when we should not?

• **2 Like Father, Like Child**

Patsy : Dad, I need some new make-up.

Dad : OK. How much money do you need? Is this enough?

Patsy : No. I need at least twice that much.

Dad : What? Isn't that an awful lot of money for make-up?

Patsy : Well, I could get something cheaper, but it wouldn't look as good, and it wouldn't be as healthy on my skin.

Dad : You need to learn how to be more frugal. Just because something costs a lot more doesn't mean it's actually better.

Patsy : But don't you always wear expensive tailored suits instead of clothes off the rack?

Dad : Well, yes, but I need to look sharp. I need to make a good impression on my clients.

Patsy : OK. But why did you buy a sedan last month instead of a compact? That's not for business reasons, is it?

*In my line of work I need a nice car.*



*But I'm a girl! In my line of work, I need to look as good as I can.*

• **Questions**

1. Are your parents "stingy" or "wasteful"? How about you?
2. Does your family drive a sedan or a compact? Why?
3. Do your parents usually wear expensive clothes? Where do they get them?



# LESSON 21 I Don't Understand Adults

## Answer Me

### 3 Motivation

**Gene** : Wow! Look at that car!

**Bonnie** : It's very beautiful. But I bet it's really expensive.

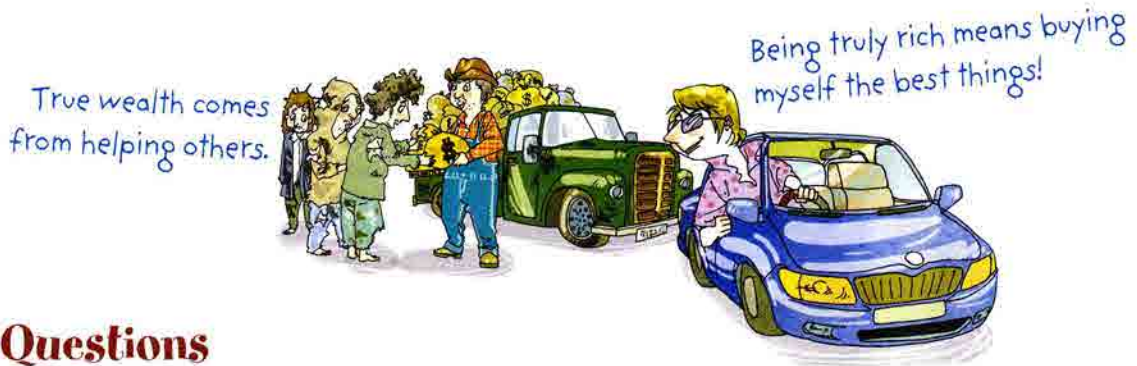
**Gene** : Of course it is! That's the whole point about having a lot of money — so you can buy costly items.

**Bonnie** : No, you're missing the whole point. Rich people should use their wealth to help the poor.

**Gene** : Well, that's up to them. It's their money; they can do anything they want with it.

**Bonnie** : If the person who bought this car had used the same amount of money to feed a starving family or send some poor kid to school, think how better off our whole society could be.

**Gene** : Yes, yes, I know. But nobody would work hard to make a lot of money if he couldn't use it to buy nice things for himself.



### Questions

1. Do you think the rich should help the poor? Why or why not?
2. Do the wealthy in our country do enough for poor people? Explain your answer.
3. Should we pass laws to force the rich to help the poor. If so, how? If not, why not?