

Chat Room for Teens **2**

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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Chat Room for Teens

02

LESSON 11 Happy New Year!

— Warm-up Dialog —

Resolve Is Good

Barbara : New Year's Day is only a week away. Can you believe it, Bob?

Robert : It's hard to believe, Babs, but it's true. Another year is almost gone.

Barbara : Do you remember the New Year Resolutions you made last year?

Robert : Not really. I think I forgot them as soon as I made them.

Barbara : Well, I remember mine. And some of them actually came to pass.

Robert : Such as?

Barbara : Well, I said I would study harder. And my grades got better as a result.

Robert : Well, congratulations. But I remember one of your resolutions that you didn't keep.

Barbara : Which one is that?

Robert : I remember you said that you'd try to be kinder to your brother. But I think you're just as mean to me as you've ever been.

*As life goes by, time seems to speed up.
A month is like an hour, a year like a day.*



Barbara : That's because you're such a rotten kid. Nobody could be kind to someone as bad as you.

Robert : That's exactly what I mean!

Barbara : But, seriously, what about this year? Are you making any resolutions?

Robert : Well, every year I promise to get more exercise and stop watching so much TV. So, I guess I'll try again this year.

Barbara : Well, good luck.

Robert : What about you? What is your new year's resolution?

Barbara : I'm going to try to do a better job keeping my promises.

Robert : That sounds like a good idea. You can start by promising to be nicer to me!

● Questions

1. Do you usually make new year's resolutions?
2. Do you make them by yourself or with the help of your parents or friends?
3. Make your next list of new year's resolutions now.

Pictures



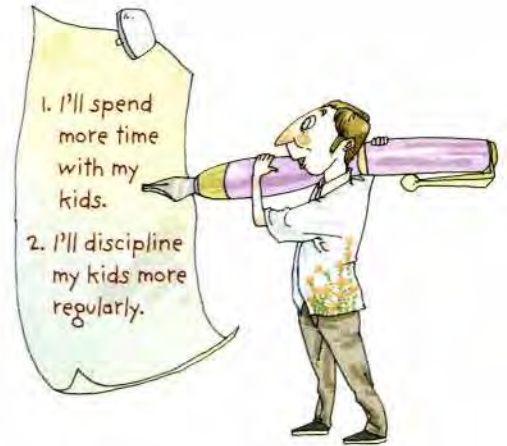
- Q1: Do you feel happy when a new year begins? Why or why not?
- Q2: What do you do on the first day of January?
- Q3: Do you get a present from your parents? Or any special pocket money?

- 2.
- Q1: Do you think time passes too fast? What makes you think so?
 - Q2: Do your parents say time is passing too fast or too slow? Does age make a difference?
 - Q3: Do you want to grow up soon? Why or why not?



- Q1: What were your most important new year's resolutions this year?
- Q2: Do you always keep your resolutions? Why or why not?
- Q3: What happens if you fail to keep them?

- 4.
- Q1: What were your parents' new year's resolutions this year?
 - Q2: Do you know if they kept them? What happened?
 - Q3: Why do you think it is usually hard to keep these resolutions?



5.



- Q1: Do you like the teacher's resolutions? Why or why not?
- Q2: What would you like your teachers to do for you and your friends?
- Q3: Do you think your teachers really love you? Explain in detail.

- 6.
- Q1: What's the main difference between last year and this year?
 - Q2: Do you think you have a better understanding of your friends and family?
 - Q3: Do you feel more responsible towards your family and yourself?



LESSON 11 Happy New Year!

Answer Me

1 Negotiating a Raise

Randy : Hi, Mom. I want to talk to you about something important.

Mother : Certainly, son. What's on your mind?

Randy : Well, I think I need a bigger allowance.

Mother : Why? Don't you get enough?

Randy : It's okay, I guess. But I think I should get more because it's a new year.

Mother : Is that the only reason?

Randy : I guess so. But it's a pretty good reason!

Mother : Do you think your dad and I get a raise every year? Just because it's a new year?

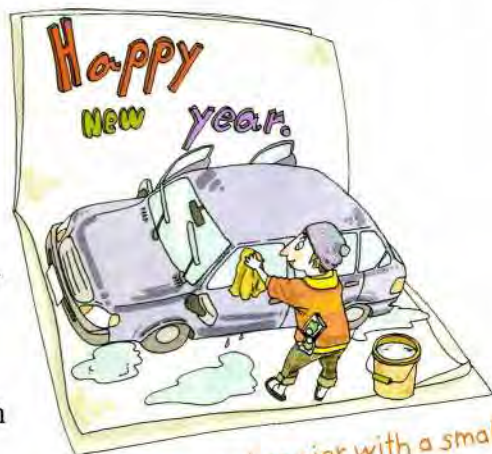
Randy : I don't know. But you should!

Mother : Are you willing to do more work around the house? Help with chores?

Randy : Sure!

Mother : OK, I'll discuss it with your father when he comes home. We'll see what he says.

Randy : I'm sure he'll agree if you tell him you think it's a good idea.



Maybe I was happier with a small allowance and more free time.

Questions

1. Do your parents increase your allowance every year?
2. Do you think you deserve a raise every year? Even if your own responsibilities remain the same?
3. What do you think a fair allowance would be for someone your age?

• **2 Overdoing It?**

Mom : Charles, I think you're doing a wonderful job at school!

Charles : Thanks, Mom. But it isn't any better than usual. What's up?

Mom : I know I complain a lot when you do something wrong, so I decided that one of my new year's resolutions is to compliment you more. I don't want you to think I don't appreciate your accomplishments.

Charles : I don't think that.

Mom : I know you don't. You're so thoughtful!

Charles : I'm glad you think so.

Mom : And so appreciative!

Charles : Thanks, Mom. But it's kind of embarrassing when you act this way.

Mom : So humble!

Charles : Mom! Cut it out! I like it better when you're acting normal.

Mom : Don't you like compliments?

Charles : Sure, if I do something to deserve them. But not every second!



• **Questions**

1. Do you think adults usually keep their resolutions?
2. When do your parents praise you? When do they criticize you?
3. How do you feel when they complain about you? Do you ever think you deserve it?

LESSON 11 Happy New Year!

Answer Me

3 Promises, Promises

Ellen : Dad! I'm so disappointed in you. You promised to stop smoking!

Dad : I know I did. And I will. But right now I'm under a lot of stress from work. Smoking helps calm my nerves.

Ellen : But your job isn't any different than it always is, is it? How will next week be any different?

Dad : I just bought a new pack. If I don't smoke it all, it'll just be a waste of money.

Ellen : But a pack of cigarettes doesn't cost much. Bad health is a lot more expensive than that.

Dad : I know, but I bought it out of habit. I'm used to buying a pack when I buy a newspaper. I don't even think about doing it.

Ellen : I'll help you by just giving you enough change for a paper. That way you'll have to think about it.

Dad : Thanks, you're a big help. But smoking is also a habit. I've been smoking since I was in high school. It's hard to stop.

Ellen : But it would be easier if you actually tried to stop!

Dad : Okay. I promise.

Ellen : When?

Dad : Soon.



*Promises are like money –
easier made than kept.*

Questions

1. To stop smoking is one of the most common new year's resolutions among adults. But many people fail. Can you explain why?
2. A lot of people suffer from secondhand smoke. What is that? Why is it a problem?
3. Do your parents smoke? If they do, could you get them to stop? How?