

9 Flying the Nest

Reading

A Look at the list of milestones. How do you think they change or affect a person? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

- Completing studies
- Finding a job
- Moving out of home
- Learning to drive
- Getting married
- Having children

B How many milestones have you reached? If it's none so far, which will be the first? Discuss with a partner.

C Quickly read Text 1. What are the health risks for child brides?

D Quickly read Text 2. How are the boys distracted from the pain?

1 Child marriage

Worldwide, more than 700 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday. More than one third entered into union before the age of 15. Boys are also married as children, but girls are disproportionately affected. According to UNICEF, child marriage – usually forced, to much older men and sometimes constituting slavery – is a manifestation of gender inequality, reflecting social norms that perpetuate discrimination against girls. Girls who marry are not only denied their childhood. They are often socially isolated – cut off from family and friends and other sources of support – with limited opportunities for education and employment. Lower levels of education are common among women who married in childhood. Child brides typically end up having many children to care for while still young. In Nepal, for example, over one third of women aged 20 to 24 who married before their 15th birthday had three or more children compared to one per cent of women who married as adults. Child brides are also less likely to receive proper medical care while pregnant. This, along with the fact that girls are not physically mature enough to give birth, places both mothers and their babies at risk. In fact, pregnancy-related deaths are the leading cause of mortality for girls aged 15–19 worldwide.

Many cultures condone the practice of child marriage.

In some of these cases, the girls may give consent, but the extent to which this can be described as free and informed when they are pressured by society, their family and economic stresses is problematic. Many are prevented from developing relationships in the name of the family's 'honour' and some face unspeakable violence if they do.

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC), in exceptional circumstances a mature and capable child over the age of 16 may marry 'provided that such decisions are made by a judge based on legitimate exceptional grounds defined by law and on the evidence of maturity without deference to cultures and traditions.'

The CRC aims to raise the minimum age of marriage across countries and cultures. But any legislative changes or enforcement must be accompanied by measures to change social norms promoting child marriage, including the notion that girls must be wed early as a survival mechanism for families ridding themselves of an economic burden.



2 Initiation rites

In the depths of the Brazilian Amazon jungle, many native tribes still follow their traditional ways of life, carrying on ancient practices and rituals. The indigenous Sateré-Mawé tribe are among these. They value strength and courage; qualities needed to protect the tribe from hostile neighbours and natural predators. For this reason, their warriors are highly revered. As a result, young boys in the tribe are raised with the dream of joining the warrior ranks. However, this is not an easy undertaking. In one of the tribe's most sacred rituals, boys hoping to gain this status must show themselves capable of enduring the worst that the jungle has to offer. They prove their worth by remaining calm, often entirely expressionless, while experiencing excruciating pain.

The young men's strength is tested in an initiation against a particularly venomous species of ant, a single sting from which is capable of causing hours of pain. Nicknamed the 'bullet ant' because its sting is said to be as painful as being shot, the powerful toxin released by the ant attacks the nervous system, causing uncontrollable shaking even after the waves of pain have ceased, as well as

disorientation and hallucinations. The effects of a single ant sting have been known to last for days; the warrior hopefuls of the tribe, however, do not sustain just one sting.

In preparation for the initiation ceremony, bullet ants are harvested from the jungle and sedated in a solution of herbs. While unconscious, the ants are woven into a pair of gloves made from leaves, with their stingers facing inward. As the ants come to, they become increasingly agitated and are raring to sting. To be considered a man of the tribe, boys as young as twelve must then thrust their hands into the gloves for a full five minutes or longer, being stung the entire time. The initiates sing and dance with the tribe during the ordeal, but this distraction is their only relief.

When the gloves are removed, the ants' venom continues acting for hours, during which time the boys are in constant pain. Enduring the pain demonstrates the boys' readiness for manhood, and few cry out as doing so would demonstrate weakness. Each boy will eventually wear the gloves twenty times over the span of several months before the initiation is complete.

E Read the *Exam Close-up*. Then complete the *Exam Task* below.

Exam Task

Read the two passages from a journal, then answer the questions according to the information given in each passage.

Text 1

- 1 What is the main purpose of the passage?
A to expose a problem
B to condemn a practice
C to clarify an issue
D to suggest a solution
- 2 According to the passage, what is true about mothers in Nepal?
A Younger brides tend to have more children.
B The majority of them are child brides.
C They are unlikely to be educated.
D The medical care they need is not available.
- 3 What is an impediment to girls forming their own relationships?
A the economic pressure they face
B the notion of shaming the family
C their inability to be free and informed
D the relationships may turn violent
- 4 Under what circumstances does the CRC accept child marriage?
A when the bride gives her consent
B when there is evidence of age
C when it complies with cultural traditions
D when there is a legal basis for it

Text 2

- 5 What does testing of the warrior hopefuls involve?
A earning a new status
B fending off attackers
C facing danger in the jungle
D undergoing a feat of fortitude
- 6 Which is the best description of the physical effects of the ritual?
A It causes lasting injury.
B It triggers spasms.
C It produces a toxin.
D It diminishes strength.
- 7 What happens to the ants prior to the initiation ceremony?
A They are rendered inactive temporarily.
B They sting their perceived predators.
C They are used to make a solution.
D They are given a natural remedy.
- 8 In the sixth sentence of paragraph 4, what does the word **raring** mean?
A expected
B unable
C eager
D provoked

F Complete the sentences with the words from the texts.

burden deference manifestation norm ranks
ritual span union

- 1 Theirs was a happy _____ that lasted fifty years and produced six children.
- 2 In _____ to my parents, I had a church ceremony when I got married.
- 3 Coming of age ceremonies are the _____ in countries around the world.
- 4 He is studying the role of _____ in the religions of ancient cultures.
- 5 After a _____ of twenty years in the field, the anthropologist published her findings.
- 6 Rejecting older applicants for jobs was a _____ of the company's ageist policy.

Exam Close-up

Determining the meaning of specific words

- You may be asked about the meaning of a word or a phrase in the passage.
 - Read the sentence that the word is in, as well as the sentences before and after it, to see how the word is used in context.
 - Look at the options and choose the one that makes the most sense within the context of the passage.
- 7 Buying a house will definitely place a huge financial _____ on young couples.
 - 8 Unfortunately, Rachel recently joined the _____ of the unemployed.

- What are the minimum age requirements for marriage, voting and driving in your country? Do you think they should be changed? Why? / Why not?
- Would you defy your parents or community expectations when choosing a partner? Why? / Why not?

Ideas Focus



9 Flying the Nest

Vocabulary

A Complete the text with the words.

agency deposit eviction landlord lease let references
sublet tenant tenancy upfront utilities

Thinking about becoming independent

It can be expensive to rent a house or flat. Aside from the money that you will need to have saved to enter into a (1) _____ agreement, there are other costs that you will have to budget for like (2) _____ such as electricity, gas and water, as well as food, furniture and electrical appliances.

Before a property can be (3) _____ to you, you may be asked to provide (4) _____ that testify to your character as a potential renter. If you are accepted as a suitable (5) _____ for a house or a flat, you will usually have to pay some (6) _____ costs before you move in. The (7) _____ who owns the property can request that you pay two to four weeks' worth of rent in advance and a (8) _____ (no more than four weeks' rent) that acts as security to cover any damage to the property while you are living there.

In the event that you do not pay your rent for an extended period of time, you may face (9) _____. At the end of your (10) _____, if you have broken the rental agreement, haven't paid all your rent or damaged the property, the landlord may apply for the costs to be taken out of your deposit.

If, for whatever reason, you need to leave for a period of time, but wish to retain the residence, you may be able to (11) _____ to another renter, but you must first ask the permission of the property owner or the letting (12) _____.



B Circle the word or phrase that is incorrect.

- 1 Joel was dissatisfied with his job, so he **granted** / **handed in** / **tendered** his resignation.
- 2 Due to her poor performance, Amanda was **relieved of** / **removed from** / **resigned from** her duties.
- 3 If you continue to arrive late for work, you'll be given your **early retirement** / **marching orders** / **walking papers**.
- 4 I'm looking for a permanent position in sales, but I've only been offered **casual** / **manual** / **temporary** work.
- 5 James won't be back at his desk until next week as he's still on **absence** / **paternity** / **sick** leave.
- 6 The mark of a good manager is knowing how best to **assign** / **delegate** / **nominate** work to staff.
- 7 I have a mountain of work to get through and I don't know how I'll ever **make** / **match** / **meet** my deadline.
- 8 The fact that **downtime** / **flexitime** / **overtime** is an option is the main reason why I like my job.

C Complete the sentences with the words.

autonomous emancipated enfranchised independent liberated neutral self-sufficient sovereign

- 1 The peace conference was held in Switzerland – a _____ country that has not fought a foreign war since 1815.
- 2 Representations in artwork reveal that women in this society enjoyed an _____ style of life and were held in high regard.
- 3 Finally, after four years of occupation and destruction, the country was _____ and embarked on a massive rebuilding programme.
- 4 Doesn't international law state that we must respect the rights of _____ nations to conduct their own affairs?
- 5 Mount Athos – an important centre of monasticism in northern Greece – is governed as an _____ area within the Greek Republic.
- 6 Women in Britain were first _____ in 1918, when those aged over 30 with property could vote; it was not until 1928 that all women aged over 21 were able to do so.
- 7 Blessed with fertile valleys and abundant farmland, the country is _____ in food production.
- 8 Pakistan became fully _____ from British rule on August 14, 1947, and India followed a day later.

Word Formation

- D** Complete the sentences with the words below in the correct form. Write them into the table. Consider that you may need to use a negative form.

verb	noun	adjective
dismiss	_____	_____
dispense	_____	_____
entitle	_____	_____
	hierarchy	_____
	_____	mature, immature
	_____	mediocre
obligate	obligation	_____
orientate	_____	_____

- Where I work, there is a _____ structure with the manager at the top, followed by the assistant manager and then the rest of us at various lower levels.
- Tom's frequent and embarrassing outbursts at work were a sign of his emotional _____, and he was let go as a result.
- The manager has announced that there will be a one-week _____ for this year's interns and new recruits.
- No one is a more conscientious worker than Tony and he has become _____ to the company.
- Take one look at today's 'celebrities' and you'll see that _____ is no impediment to fame.
- A medical examination before you start work is _____ as it assures us that you are physically fit for the job.
- Although you have an annual leave _____ of 28 days, your employer may insist that you take some of your paid holiday on bank holidays.
- Claiming that her _____ was unfair, Helene decided to take her case to a workers' tribunal.

Phrasal verbs

- E** Match the two halves of each sentence. Use the words in *italics* to help you.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 It's so unfair that they always <i>saddle me</i> | a <i>down</i> immediately, but I don't know why. |
| 2 I can't go out with you on Friday as I'm <i>standing</i> | b <i>down</i> and start a family very soon. |
| 3 The director was asked to <i>step</i> | c <i>up</i> and do something constructive. |
| 4 I'm short of cash and have <i>fallen</i> | d <i>with</i> the boring tasks at work. |
| 5 Roman says he's going to <i>settle</i> | e <i>off</i> if the downturn continues. |
| 6 Sales are down and staff will be <i>laid</i> | f <i>on</i> his parents for support. |
| 7 At 25, Max really needs to <i>grow</i> | g <i>in</i> for Julie who is ill. |
| 8 Whenever he is in need, he can <i>lean</i> | h <i>behind</i> on my rent for the first time. |

- What are the pros and cons of employees in the US having an average of only 10 days' annual paid leave?
- If you had your own company, how many days' holiday would you give your employees? What about paid sick leave? Why?

Ideas Focus



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Collocations & Expressions

F Circle the correct words.

- 1 It was brave of Emily to **hit** / **strike** out on her own and start her own company.
- 2 Now that you've found a job, you must **fend** / **tend** for yourself financially.
- 3 This project is a team effort, so we expect everyone to **lift** / **pull** their weight.
- 4 We'll need to **burn** / **light** the midnight oil in order to make tomorrow's deadline.
- 5 The poor interns! They were **pushed** / **thrown** in at the deep end on their first day!
- 6 You seem to know what you're doing, so I'll leave you to your own **devices** / **methods**.
- 7 James isn't ready to take on responsibility; he's still wet behind the **head** / **ears**.
- 8 Having proved her ability, May was given a **free** / **full** hand by her manager.

G Read the *Exam Close-up*. Then complete the *Exam Task* below.

Exam Task

Choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 He quit of his own _____ ; no one asked him to.
a wishes
b accord
c interest
d sake | 5 He _____ credit for work others had done.
a stated
b declared
c insisted
d claimed |
| 2 It's up to you what you do; do as you see _____.
a suitable
b clear
c right
d fit | 6 My uncle pulled some _____ and got me a job.
a strings
b plugs
c punches
d stakes |
| 3 I'm not at _____ to give you that information.
a liberty
b leisure
c will
d ease | 7 She just doesn't seem able to hold _____ a job.
a up
b off
c down
d back |
| 4 I was a _____ of nerves on my first day at work.
a batch
b bunch
c bundle
d bale | 8 Sailing solo around the world was no mean _____.
a deed
b feat
c step
d act |

Exam Close-up

Dealing with idioms and expressions

- If you come across an idiom or expression that you are not familiar with, first try all of the options to see which seems the most logical.
- If you still cannot find the answer, try to think of an expression with a similar meaning and see if it shares any of the same words as the answer options.

9 Flying the Nest

Listening

A Complete the sentences with these words.

apron strings code deposit etiquette manoeuvre mortgage notice squatter

- After being tied to his mother's _____ for years, it was time to strike out on his own.
- The _____ she found most difficult was reversing around corners.
- The tenants signed a contract with the landlord and paid a _____.
- Telephone _____ is particularly important when dealing with customers.
- Make sure you follow the dress _____ in your office.
- Before terminating a contract, you must give adequate _____.
- The empty property was occupied by a _____.
- The couple paid off their _____ over a 25-year period.

B  Read these questions and options. Listen to the woman talking and circle the correct answer, a, b or c.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What do we infer from the woman about her children? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Her son was keener to drive than her daughter. Both her son and daughter are at university. She would like both her children to live at home. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What can we infer about squatting? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It is the same as being a guardian. It is probably illegal. The woman is in favour of it. |
|--|---|

C  Read the *Exam Close-up*. Then complete the *Exam Task* below, focusing on what is implied by the speakers.

Exam Close-up

Writing short notes

- When you only hear the talk once, it is a good idea to make short notes to help you answer the questions.
- Read the questions carefully so that you note down the relevant information to help you answer them.
- Inferring meaning from the context means you have to 'listen between the lines', i.e., listen to what is implied rather than expressed directly.

Exam Task

You will hear three short segments from a radio programme. The programme is called "Striking Out". You will hear what three different radio guests have to say about three different topics. After each talk, you will be asked some questions. From the three answer choices given, you should choose the one that best answers the question according to the information you heard.

Segment One

- What was Elena's attitude towards learning to drive?
 - She lacked motivation to start.
 - She was reluctant to try it.
 - She was put off by the high cost.
- What do both speakers agree about?
 - Manoeuvres are emphasised too much in the test.
 - Not being allowed to complete the test is unfair.
 - Having two examiners makes test takers nervous.

Segment Two

- What kind of person must a property guardian be?
 - flexible and responsible
 - professional and reliable
 - spontaneous and creative
- Why does being a property guardian appeal to Matt?
 - He needs a lot of space to store his things.
 - He does not want a permanent home.
 - It is a lot cheaper than the alternatives.

Segment Three

- How does Rebecca describe her first job?
 - It was what she had always dreamt of.
 - It was harder than expected.
 - It was rather a shock.
- What did Rebecca have to learn?
 - how to fit in at the company
 - how to deal with difficult clients
 - how to place telephone orders

