



IELTS READING LESSON 6-27-2018

Lesson Objective: The student shall be able to use "power words" as part of their oral vocabulary, read and comprehend both social and business language and demonstrate effective oral communication skills.

Evaluation Criteria: Ability to understand definitions of English vocabulary

Section One Vocabulary

- Match the correct word in column A with the definition in column B, then use in a sample sentence

Column A	Column B
VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
1. ADHERE (verb)	A. The entire body of individuals born and living at about the same time.
2. GENERATION (noun)	B. To work, one with another; cooperate, as on a literary work.
3. COLLABORATE (verb)	C. Lack of similarity or equality; inequality; difference.
4. SINGLEHOOD (noun)	D. In accordance with tradition.
5. DISPARITY (noun)	E. The act of combining parts or elements to form a whole.
6. TRADITIONAL (adjective)	F. To break down the courage of completely, as by sudden danger or trouble; dishearten thoroughly; daunt.
7. COMPOSITION (noun)	G. Of, relating to, or characteristic of controversy, or prolonged public dispute, debate, or contention.
8. DISMAY (verb)	H. To the status of being unmarried.
9. CONTROVERSIAL (adjective)	I. To stay attached; stick fast; cleave; cling.

Section Two

Reading Comprehension and Pronunciation skills.

Evaluation Criteria: Ability to effectively read and comprehend written English in a social or business environment.

ARTICLE A

The benefits of family values.

Source

- Many organizations run their businesses according to values important to them and to those they serve. So, if values are important for businesses, why wouldn't they also be essential to the most important business in your life: your family?

Families, like businesses, run like well-oiled machines when their members work in agreement with, and adhere to, specific values. Does your family run like a well-oiled machine? If not, here are some ways to establish values in your family and reap the benefits.

- Establishing family values

If you want the benefits of family values, you must establish them, maintain them, and continually hold your family accountable for them. In order to do this, have several family meetings to determine 4-5 values on which your family will operate. These may be decided through family tradition (passed down from previous generations) or faith (spiritual/biblical values). You may also choose from a list of values at websites like values.com/teaching-values.

- Next, discuss the meaning of each value and how it looks to live by it. For example, if your family picks "respect," discuss how respect looks when interacting at the dinner table or disagreeing about where to go on family vacation. You can even role-play how each of the values are carried out in various situations, inside and outside the home. Then post the values in your home so all members of your family may be constantly reminded. Finally, hold members of your family accountable for implementing the values. At the dinner table, for instance, ask





your children how they showed these values at school. Discuss how they were shown at work. Have monthly family meetings and devote a portion of your meeting to talking about values and how your family operates by them. These steps will allow values to be indoctrinated in your family, so the benefits below may manifest.

4. The benefits

Families make collaborative decisions quite often. From "how should we plan for Thanksgiving dinner?" to "where should we go on vacation?" family issues can take a long time to resolve, especially when more family members are involved, and those members have diverse opinions. Values can fix that. If a family operates by core values, family decisions can be better negotiated. If a family values "teamwork," for example, then all members should agree that no one person should be responsible for preparing Thanksgiving dinner. If a family values "adventure," each member may identify family vacation spots that are exploratory and exciting. Values force individual family members to honor the family above all else, and they also speed the decision-making process.

5. Appropriate reactions

Adhering to family values causes members of the family to react more appropriately to family conflicts. Conflict is normal, but unhealthy conflict-resolution strategies damage families. Being able to resolve conflicts in a healthy way actually allows family relationships to grow stronger, and this can be done by focusing on values. For example, when a family agrees that they will adhere to the values of "respect" and "compassion," a parent is less likely to call their children degrading names when upset. Or if a family values "honesty," children will find it more challenging to lie to their parents when asked about their behavior in school. Adhering to family values gives family members the opportunity to reflect on their family's values, which can allow for healthier reactions.

6. A guide for behavior

When your preteen or teenager struggles with fitting in to a certain crowd at school or asserting their independence at home, it helps to be guided by a force other than peer pressure or emotions. This is where values can help. Values offer a powerful tool to guide daily conduct. If your family is committed to "good health," for example, your child may use this value in order to turn down a cigarette or refuse an opportunity to engage in risky sexual behavior. In the home, your child may adhere to the value of good health when choosing to eat both a slice of supreme pizza and a plate of salad. Therefore, family values can have a positive impact on your children's behavior without you having to continually redirect it.

As stated before, values work well for businesses and your family business, so try using values to run your home.

ARTICLE B

Study: The American Family is No More

A new study suggests immigrants now most closely resemble the 'typical' American family.

[Source](#)

1. **IT IS BECOMING** increasingly difficult to identify what a "traditional" American family looks like. Once that meant a married couple, a father who worked, kids in school and a relatively stable lifestyle.

But due to a whirlwind of economic and social changes that took place during the last decade, young people are delaying marriage longer, permanent singlehood has increased, and the "marriage-go-round" of divorce and remarriage continues to rise. Those are the findings of a new study from a researcher at Ohio State University.



2. The study's author, Sociology Professor Zhenchao Qian, studied data from the 2000 Census and the 2008 to 2010 American Community Survey, concluding that in the 2000s, "there is no longer any such thing as a typical American family."

But the most troubling finding, Qian said, is the large disparity that has grown between families of different races and socioeconomic classes. Race, education, the economy and immigration status weigh heavily on how well families fare financially, he said.



3. Despite the negative changes in American families, one group has remained stable and most closely resembles what was once considered the American norm and that is the immigrant community. Qian found that immigrants tend to be married at a higher rate, and divorce and remarry at a lower rate when compared to those born in the United States.

Qian said the Great Recession of the late 2000s can account for many of the changes - across the board, regardless of race, young people born in the United States have delayed getting married, moved back in with their parents, and those who do marry get divorced at a higher rate.

4. "There is no doubt that the gap between America's haves and have-nots grew larger than ever during the 2000s," Qian said in a statement. "This gap has shaped American families in multiple ways. It influences the kind of families we live in and the kind of family environment in which we raise our children."

From 2008 to 2010, nearly half of young adults between the ages of 20 and 24 lived with their parents. During the same time, the percentage of U.S.-born women of that age who had ever been married declined from 31 percent in 2000 to 19 percent in 2008 to 2010. The decline for men was similar, dropping from 21 percent to 11 percent.

5. Not only are young people putting off getting married, but when they do, they are more likely to get divorced and remarried, a cycle Qian calls the "marriage-go-round." Among currently married men, Qian found the percentage of those who were married more than once increased from 17 percent in 1980 to 25 percent in 2008 to 2010.

Outcomes were even worse for African-Americans: they had the lowest percentage of people who had ever been married, at every age group, the highest proportion of permanent singlehood by the age of 50 and the highest divorce-to-marriage

One bright spot in the study, however, is that the decade appeared to give greater stability in terms of the living arrangements among American-born children. The percentage of children living with two married, working parents increased from 41 percent in 2000 to 43 percent in 2008 to 2010.

"Economic inequality is key to the polarization of American families, and the disadvantages of children living in single and unstable families will just worsen the racial and ethnic inequalities we already have in this country," Qian said.

ARTICLE C

Why Families Matter, and Why Traditional Families are Still the Best

[Source](#)

1. It's been a good month for champions of the traditional family, but don't expect the family wars to be ending any time soon.

In recent weeks, a barrage of new evidence has come to light demonstrating what was once common sense. "Family structure matters" (in the words of my American Enterprise Institute colleague Brad Wilcox, who is also the director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia).

And Princeton University and the left-of-center Brookings Institution released a study that reported "most scholars now agree that children raised by two biological parents in a stable marriage do better than children in other family forms across a wide range of outcomes." Why this is so is still hotly contested.

2. Another study, coauthored by Wilcox, found that states with more married parents do better on a broad range of economic indicators, including upward mobility for poor children and lower rates of child poverty. On most economic indicators, the Washington Post summarized, "the share of parents who are married in a state is a better predictor of that state's economic health than the racial composition and educational attainment of the state's residents."

Boys in particular do much better when raised in a more traditional family environment, according to a new report from MIT. This is further corroboration of Daniel Patrick Moynihan's famous 1965 warning: "From the wild Irish slums of the 19th century Eastern





seaboard, to the riot-torn suburbs of Los Angeles, there is one unmistakable lesson in American history; a community that allows a large number of men to grow up in broken families, dominated by women, never acquiring any stable relationship to male authority, never acquiring any set of rational expectations about the future — that community asks for and gets chaos."

3. Perhaps most intriguing — and dismaying — a new study by Nicholas Zill of the Institute of Family Studies found that adopted children have a harder time at school than kids raised by their biological parents. What makes this so dismaying is that adoptive parents tend to be better off financially and are just as willing as traditional parents, if not more so, to put in the time and effort of raising kids.

Zill's finding highlights the problem with traditional family triumphalism. Adoption is a wonderful thing, and just because there are challenges that come with adoption, no one would ever argue that the problems adopted kids face make the alternatives to adoption better. Kids left in orphanages or trapped in abusive homes do even worse.

In other words, every sweeping statement that the traditional family is best must come with a slew of caveats, chief among them: "Compared to what?" A little girl in a Chinese or Russian orphanage is undoubtedly better off with two loving gay or lesbian parents in America. A kid raised by two biological parents who are in a nasty and loveless marriage will likely benefit from her parents getting divorced.

4. "In general," writes St. Lawrence University professor Steven Horwitz, "comparisons of different types of family structures must avoid the 'Nirvana Fallacy' by not comparing an idealized vision of married parenthood with a more realistic perspective on single parenthood. The choices facing couples in the real world are always about comparing imperfect alternatives."

Of course, that point can be made about almost every human endeavor, because we live in a flawed world. And just because we don't — and can't — live in perfect consistency with our ideals, that is not an argument against the ideals themselves.

It shouldn't surprise anyone that family structure is so controversial. The family, far more than government or schools, is the institution we draw the most meaning from. From the day we are born, it gives us our identity, our language and our expectations about how the world should work. Before we become individuals or citizens or voters, we are first and foremost part of a family. That is why social engineers throughout the ages see it as a competitor to, or problem for, the state.

And the family wars will never end, because family matters — a lot.