

A New Beginning

CHAPTER 10 — MOM DOESN'T UNDERSTAND



PRE-READING

A. What do you think?

1. It's a Tuesday night and it is very late. Why do you think Ana and Grandpa are waiting for Carlos?
2. Ana isn't very happy. What do you think the problem is?

B. What does it mean? Can you guess what the italicized words mean?

1. Carlos and his *girlfriend* like to *go out* on Saturday night.
2. You can drink beer or wine in a *bar*.
3. My friend will *make her own decision* to come to the United States.
4. Please don't *stay out* late. Come home at 10:00.

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READING

MOM DOESN'T UNDERSTAND

Ana: Carlos, we need to talk. Grandpa and I are worried about you. You go out every night after dinner and we don't see you much anymore. What do you do?

Carlos: Mom, I'm twenty years old. I'm an adult now and I can make my own decisions. Everything's fine.

Ana: No, it isn't. You need more sleep. Do you have a girlfriend? Do you go to bars?

Carlos: Mom, no more questions. It's late and I'm tired. Let's talk tomorrow.

Grandpa: Carlos, answer your mother's questions.

Carlos: OK. I do have a girlfriend. Her name is Sally Baker. We study together and we like to go out, too.

Ana: But you stay out so late. What about her family?

Carlos: She doesn't live at home. She has an apartment.

Ana: An apartment? For a young girl? I can't believe it!

Grandpa: Things are really different here in the United States.

Ana: Yes, they are. I'm trying to understand.

Carlos: Mom, I'm doing fine. Don't worry about me. Now, good night, Grandpa. Good night, mom.

Ana and Grandpa: Good night, Carlos.

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COMPREHENSION

- C. Write *T* for the true sentences and *F* for the false ones.
1. ___ Ana and Grandpa think everything is fine.
 2. ___ Ana and Grandpa want to talk with Carlos.
 3. ___ Carlos wants mom's help.
 4. ___ For young people, life in the United States is the same as life in other countries.
 5. ___ Ana is trying to understand Carlos.
- D. Answer these questions. The questions may have more than one answer.
1. Why do Ana and Grandpa want to talk to Carlos?
 2. Name three things Ana worries about.
 3. Is Carlos worried about himself? Why or why not?
 4. Sally doesn't live at home. Why?
 5. Explain the sentence, "I can make my own decisions."

VOCABULARY

- E. Find the phrase on the right that means the same as the phrase on the left. Write the correct letter in the blank.
- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. ___ I can make my own decisions | a. I don't understand; I don't think it's right |
| 2. ___ I'm going out with someone tonight. | b. There's no problem. |
| 3. ___ Things are different here. | c. I have a date tonight. |
| 4. ___ Everything's fine. | d. Life is not the same here. |
| 5. ___ I can't believe it! | e. I can decide by myself. |

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CONVERSATION

- F. Think and talk about these questions.
1. When do children become adults? At what age can children make their own decisions?
 2. When can young people go out alone on a date in your country?
 3. In your country, what happens when parents tell their children to do something and the children say, "No!"?
 4. In the United States, many people think it is important for families to talk about family problems. Is it the same in your culture?
 5. Do parents' ideas change when they move to a new country? How about children's ideas?

LISTENING

- G. **Books closed.** Your teacher will read this story about Grandpa to you. Listen carefully. You will be asked to write three things about Grandpa.

My Grandpa is seventy-six years old. He is short and a little fat, and he doesn't have much hair. Grandpa is kind and gentle, and he always listens to me carefully. Grandpa is a very special person for me.

No, on a piece of paper, write three things about Grandpa. Then open your book and check your answers.

WRITING.

- H. Write four things about someone who is special for you. Use these questions and the story about Grandpa to help you write your sentences.
1. Who is the person and how old is he or she?
 2. What does the person look like?
 3. What are some special things that this person does?
 4. How do you feel about this person?

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READING PRACTICE

1. Many U.S. newspapers have one writer who answers letters from people who have problems. Below you will find one of these letters and its answer. Read and talk about the letters. Answer the questions.

Dear Ms. Helpful: I am thirteen years old and I am very unhappy. I really like a boy who is in my class at school. He likes me, too! But that's not why I am unhappy.

This boy asked me to go to a movie with him. We made plans to go, but then my mom said I was too young to date. I cried and cried, but she won't change her ideas! Ms. Helpful, what can I do? Thirteen is old enough to date and too young to be so unhappy.

— Sadly, Amy

Dear Amy: I think you have a problem, but I think you are lucky, too. It's nice that this boy likes you! It's also nice that your mom loves you so much. She said "No" because she loves you and worries about you.

Now here is an answer to your problem. Maybe your mom thinks you are too young because you cried and cried. Try to talk to her without crying. Try to show her in other ways that you are old enough to go out on a date. For example, make sure that your grades in school are good!

If your mom still says "No," you can still go to the movie. Ask to girls and two boys to go with you and all of you can have a good time.

— Good Luck! Ms. Helpful

Answer the questions about the letters.

1. Who is Ms. Helpful? Can you find someone like her in a real newspaper?
2. Why is Amy unhappy?
3. Do you think Amy is old enough to date? Why or why not?
4. What does Ms. Helpful tell Amy about Mom? Do you think she is right?
5. What three ideas does Ms. Helpful have for Amy to try?

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WRITING

- J. As a class, write a letter to Ms. Helpful from Amy's mom. What will she say about Amy and dating? Begin your letter like this:

Dear Ms. Helpful,

I'm having a problem with my daughter, Amy. _____

Sincerely,

Mom