

Listen to Ron talking about how he spends his time with his young son.

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–f) with the vocabulary (1–6).

Vocabulary

1. to recharge
2. a gesture
3. bilingual
4. enormous
5. amazed
6. to nurture

Definition

- a. very large
- b. very surprised
- c. a movement of your body used to express an idea
- d. to provide the care a child needs to grow and develop
- e. able to use two languages
- f. to put power, energy or resources back into something

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. Ron's son is 18 months old.	True	False
2. His son can only say a few words.	True	False
3. Ron believes that parents should try to educate their children themselves.	True	False
4. His son enjoys visiting the zoo.	True	False
5. He finds raising his son stressful.	True	False
6. Having a son has made Ron value his own parents more.	True	False

Task 2

Put the words and phrases in order to make sentences.

1. belongings For recognise of each family member. he can the personal example,
2. on his chair. away to sit attempt if you He will drive you
3. I am he can at how learn things. always amazed fast
4. like kung fu gymnastics. after He watching learned some gestures
5. how understand it is now to be a parent. I difficult
6. I have So to call time. my parents I try whenever

Discussion

Have you ever been amazed by what a small child can do?

Transcript

I want to talk about my son. My son is now one year and eight months old, has brought enormous happiness to our family, although my wife, my parent-in-law (*parents-in-law*) always complain about how tiring it is to look after him.

He is really cute and adorable. He can now speak some very simple words, such as 'papa', 'mama', but he can understand quite a lot of things, although he can't, cannot express himself verbally. For example, he can recognise the personal belongings of each family members (*member*), such as my T-shirt, the eyeglasses of Grandpa or my wife's bag, etc. He also firmly protects his own personal belongings, such as his little chair, on which he sits for meals. He will drive you away if you attempt to sit on his chair.

I am always amazed how fast he can learn things and how good his memories (*memory*) is. He can instantly learn something (*some*) funny gestures on TV programmes. For example, we found out that as he walked, he kicked his legs and feet high, and then we recalled it was because he watched the national parade in Tiananmen Square on the National Day. And he also learned some gestures like kung fu after watching the gymnastics in sports programmes.

I always believe that parents are the first and best teachers for children. I have a lot of friends who are also new parent (*parents*). They bought, they pay for their kids' very expensive course – some pre-school course (*courses*). I believe that you need to nurture and brought (*bring*) up your children with your heart and love, so every weekend, my wife and I will take him to parks because I live very close to the zoo, the Guangzhou Zoo, so I often take him to the zoo and show him the animals. He always loves that – watching all kinds of animals.

I also want to do some experiments. I want to see how children learn language so I try to teach him bilingually (*in a bilingual way*), so I teach him to say some words in English and then in Mandarin. And now he can understand quite a lot of instructions. For example, if I ask him 'Where is your bike?' and he'll run to his bike and show his bike. And if I ask him 'Where is the moon?' and then he will point his finger up into (*to*) the sky, so I think he is quite funny. And I also hope that if he can learn English at a very young age, then he will not suffer too much when he studies at school.

I think a child can bring enormous happiness to the family and to my life. I now always feel joy and peaceful while I am with him, so my favourite time-killing is to play with him after (*a*) meal, after work so I always can forget all about the frustrations and sometimes unhappiness in work and feel fully recharged. I have now learned strong family values after bringing up my son and I understand how difficult it is to be (*a*) parent. So I now try to call my parents whenever I have time, take them out to dinner or try to visit them during the weekends. So I think it's great to be (*a*) parent.

Answers

Preparation task

1. f
2. c
3. e
4. a
5. b
6. d

Task 1

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. True
5. False
6. True

Task 2

1. For example, he can recognise the personal belongings of each family member.
2. He will drive you away if you attempt to sit on his chair.
3. I am always amazed at how fast he can learn things.
4. He learned some gestures like kung fu after watching gymnastics.
5. I now understand how difficult it is to be a parent.
6. So I try to call my parents whenever I have time.