

LIVE LESSON

CHILDHOOD

Become a confident speaker of English.

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Warm Up

Stages of Childhood

1. Match the phrase with the stage

1. A newborn
2. A baby
3. A toddler (2 to 3 years)
4. A child (4 to 12 years)
5. A teenager

- A. To fit in with your peers
- B. To change a nappy
- C. To have a tantrum
- D. To take your first steps
- E. To pester your parents
- F. To go through puberty

Clues

- **To fit in** = to belong and feel accepted in a group.
- A **peer** = a person of same age
- **To throw a tantrum** = to suddenly become very angry and cry or shout.
- **To pester someone** = to repeatedly ask or annoy someone until they respond.
- **To go through puberty** = to experience the physical and emotional changes of becoming an adult.
- An **adolescent** = a teenager
- **Adolescence** = the period of being a teenager

Answers at bottom of PDF

Listening Activity

1. Listen to this parent.



[Click to listen](#)

What stage of childhood do you think their child is in?

2. Listen to another parent.

What stage of childhood do you think their child is in?



[Click to listen](#)

Answers at bottom of PDF

Vocabulary

Word family

1. A child (n.C) /tʃaɪld/
2. Children (pl.) /ˈtʃɪl.drən/
3. Childhood (n.C/U)
4. Childish (Adj.) /ˈtʃaɪl.dɪʃ/ (negative)
5. Childlike (adj.) (positive)

This chair is not yours, anyone in the office can sit here. Stop being so childish.

Our CEO is quite childlike, he has an amazing imagination.

Collocations (2 or 3 words that usually go together . A chunk)

A three-year-old child 

A three years old child 

Child care

Child-friendly (=safe for children)

Child's play (=to be very easy)

Child labour

Child custody

Your inner child

Learning English is not child's play.

Child labour is illegal in most countries.

Youtube Kids is a child-friendly platform.

Childhood Activities



1. Playing on the swings
2. Playing on a see-saw
3. Playing hide and seek
4. Skipping or jumping rope(s)
5. Playing mobile phone / video games or gaming

To seek = to look for

What activities did you do as a child?

Useful phrases

When I was a child...

I used to ...

What I remember (the) most is...

In those days...

When I was a child **I used to play** marbles with my friends.

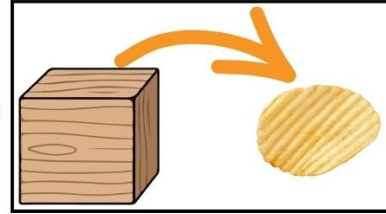
What I remember most is **playing** in the park. In those days we **went** to the park almost every day.

Idioms

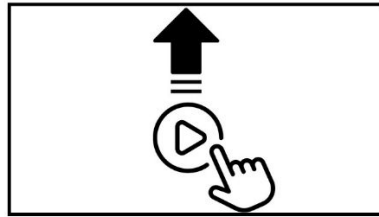
1



2



3



Guess the Idioms

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Answers at bottom of PDF

IELTS Speaking Model Answer

Describe a childhood friend

Listen and watch this model answer



[Click to watch](#)

1. Which adjectives are used to describe this friend?
2. Listen and again and note any interesting chunks / collocations.

Answers at bottom of PDF

[Full Script on next page](#)

Full Script

So the friend I want to describe is Ian.

I went to school with Ian, and we were **best mates** really.

And this was **my teenage years** (=my adolescence). I mean, we must have been 14 or 15 years old when we became close friends.

Ian was **the popular boy** in class. He was very smart, but he was also very outgoing and gregarious and just naturally attracted people. Almost the opposite of me.

But we used to hang out together. **In fact**, there was a group of us, three or four of us. We would **hang out together** in the park, sit on the swings, or go around the roundabout, you know, **like teenagers do**.

When it comes to his personality, as I mentioned, he's outgoing, but he was also very rebellious. He was always **breaking the rules** and **getting into trouble**.

I guess we were **going through puberty** at that age, and so kind of always **pushing the boundaries** (=pushing the limits), if you like.

Anyway, I remember once he convinced me to break into this old, abandoned house. At first, I said no, but he kept pestering me and insisting we do it.

So in the end, I did. I agreed. I, you know, I wanted to **fit in with** my friends in the group, so I **accepted the challenge**, and we did it together.

And I think that brought about a very **strong bond**, and it kind of **strengthened our friendship** together. So that was my friend, Ian.

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Kahoot

Test your vocabulary

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Song 🎵



<https://suno.com/s/vraKbwCcdlGnDjc2>

The Good Times Stay

When we were kids,
We lived on the same street.
Every day after school,
We would always meet.

We played on the swings,
We played hide and seek.
We lived in each other's pockets,
Every day of the week.

Chorus

*Growing up together,
Love can't hide.
You were my best friend,
always by my side.*

*Now we don't see each other,
You've gone away.
But when I think of those good times,
The good times stay.*

When we were teenagers,
We wanted to fit in.
Broke into that house.
oh the trouble we were in...

Sometimes we played up,
Sometimes we broke the rules.
We thought we knew everything,
We thought we were so cool.

Chorus

*Growing up together,
Love can't hide.
You were my best friend,
always by my side.*

*Now we don't see each other,
You're far away.
But when I think of those good times,
The good times stay.*

The years went by,
We went different ways.
Life moved on,
But the memories stayed.

And when I feel alone,
I close my eyes.
I see us both,
Under summer skies.

Chorus

*Growing up together,
Love can't hide.
You were my best friend,
always by my side.
Now we don't see each other,
You're far away.
But when I think of those good times,
The good times stay*

Answers

Warm Up

Possible Answers

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. A newborn | B |
| 2. A baby | B D |
| 3. A toddler (2 to 3 years) | C |
| 4. A child (4 to 12 years) | A C E |
| 5. A teenager | A E F |

- A. To fit in with your peers
- B. To change a nappy
- C. To have a tantrum
- D. To take your first steps
- E. To pester your parents
- F. To go through puberty

Listening Activity

Parent 1: Sarah

Answer

She's a toddler.

Until recently, my daughter was happy to stay wherever I put her. Now, I can't take my eyes off her for a second! She's constantly wandering around the house, opening cupboards and picking things up.

She wants to do everything by herself, even though she can't always manage it. Mealtimes can be challenging because

she's become quite a fussy eater. And if I take something away from her, she sometimes **throws a terrible tantrum.**

It can be exhausting, but it's also wonderful to see her becoming more independent and discovering the world around her.

Notes

To be a fussy eater — to be unwilling to eat certain kinds of food.

Parent 2: Barry

Answer

He's a teenager.

My son used to tell me everything that happened at school, but these days, it's like **getting blood from a stone.** If I ask what he's been doing, he'll usually say, "Nothing much," and disappear into his room.

His friends have become incredibly important to him, and he sometimes worries too much about **fitting in.** He's also become quite **opinionated** and doesn't always appreciate my advice!

Still, I know this is a natural stage. He's trying to work out who he is and become his own person, so I'm learning to step back and give him more space.

Notes

To get blood out of a stone

= to try to get something from someone who is unwilling to give it.

To be opinionated

= to express strong opinions very confidently, sometimes too confidently.

To be a **rebel** (n.)

= to go against other people

To **rebel** (v.)

To be **rebellious** (adj.)

Idioms

1. To live in each other's pockets

=To spend a lot of time together and know a lot about each other.

*My brother and I **lived in each other's pockets** when we were children.*

2. To be a chip off the old block

=To be very similar to your mother or father.

*Tom is funny and outgoing, just like his dad. He's **a chip off the old block**.*

Similar idioms

To take after (your mum or dad).

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Like father, like son.

3. To play up

= to behave badly, do something naughty (usually for children when they don't do what you ask them to)

*When I was a child, I sometimes **played up** when my parents took me shopping.*

Similar idiom

To act up

IELTS Speaking Model Answer

Describe a childhood friend

1. Which adjectives are used to describe this friend?

Answer

Popular

Smart = intelligent

Outgoing = extroverted

Gregarious = sociable

Rebellious = going against everyone else