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Father makes toddler train in blizzard

10th February, 2012

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1202/120210-eagle_dad.html

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120210-eagle_dad.html

A video of a father making his 4-year-old son train in freezing weather has caused outrage across the world. The man, He Liesheng, 44, calls himself "Eagle Dad" because he believes he will give his son strength and increase his intelligence if he trains him like eagles raise their young. Mr Liesheng recorded his son, He Yide, wearing just underpants and trainers running in a minus 13 degrees Centigrade blizzard. He said: "When the old eagle teaches its young, it takes the young eagles to the cliff side, beats them and pushes them to teach them to use their wings, and I believe I am helping my son in this way - to force him to challenge limitations and exceed his own expectations."

Liesheng said on Tuesday that his son was diagnosed with cerebral palsy when he was born and that this could hinder the intellectual development of his son. He explained that the tough training schedule, including jogging in the snow without clothes, would make his son as healthy and intelligent as other children. He told CNN: "I consulted my doctor friends to ensure what we do is scientific and that it won't harm my son's body." In the video footage, little Yide is crying as he chases his father and begs to be picked up. Xu Pengfei, a paediatric doctor said Mr Liesheng's method "lacks scientific basis" and that "education can only lead to a modest change in IQ."

WARM-UPS

1. RAISING CHILDREN: Walk around the class and talk to other students about raising children. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

freezing weather / outrage / strength / intelligence / limitations / expectations / diagnosed / development / training schedule / video footage / begs / scientific basis

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. PARENTHOOD: What's most difficult? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

	How big a worry?	Why?
Kids' health worries		
Good education		
Bullying		
Paying for kids		
Kids' marriage		
Discipline		

4. TOUGH: Students A **strongly** believe children need to be toughened up; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. NEEDS: What do children need most? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most needed at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- love
- discipline
- brothers and sisters
- two parents
- a good education
- English
- independence
- toys

6. FREEZING: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'freezing'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120210-eagle_dad.html

1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. A father made his young son train outside in freezing conditions. | T / F |
| b. The father believes such training will make his son more intelligent. | T / F |
| c. The little boy had to train without any kind of footwear. | T / F |
| d. The temperatures the boy trained in were colder than -10 degrees C. | T / F |
| e. The boy was born with a developmental problem. | T / F |
| f. The father did not consult any medical experts about his son's training. | T / F |
| g. The little boy was brave and did not shed a tear in the video of him. | T / F |
| h. A children's doctor said a lot of research supported the training. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. freezing | a. outdo |
| 2. outrage | b. small |
| 3. increase | c. identified |
| 4. force | d. subzero |
| 5. exceed | e. punishing |
| 6. diagnosed | f. raise |
| 7. hinder | g. make |
| 8. tough | h. make certain |
| 9. ensure | i. anger |
| 10. modest | j. hold back |

3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. train in freezing | a. challenge limitations |
| 2. caused outrage | b. footage |
| 3. increase his | c. expectations |
| 4. force him to | d. with cerebral palsy |
| 5. exceed his own | e. development of his son |
| 6. his son was diagnosed | f. weather |
| 7. hinder the intellectual | g. intelligence |
| 8. video | h. change |
| 9. begs | i. across the world |
| 10. lead to a modest | j. to be picked up |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120210-eagle_dad.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

A video of a father making his 4-year-old son (1) _____ in freezing weather has caused (2) _____ across the world. The man, He Liesheng, 44, calls himself "Eagle Dad" because he believes he will give his son strength and (3) _____ his intelligence if he trains him like eagles raise their young. Mr Liesheng recorded his son, He Yide, wearing just underpants and trainers running in a (4) _____ 13 degrees Centigrade blizzard. He said: "When the old eagle teaches its young, it takes the young eagles to the cliff side, beats them and (5) _____ them to teach them to use their wings, and I (6) _____ I am helping my son in this way - to (7) _____ him to challenge limitations and exceed his (8) _____ expectations."

minus
force
outrage
believe
train
own
increase
pushes

Liesheng said on Tuesday that his son was (9) _____ with cerebral palsy when he was born and that this could (10) _____ the intellectual development of his son. He explained that the (11) _____ training schedule, including jogging in the snow without clothes, would make his son as healthy and intelligent as other children. He told CNN: "I consulted my doctor friends to (12) _____ what we do is scientific and that it won't harm my son's body." In the video (13) _____, little Yide is crying as he chases his father and (14) _____ to be picked up. Xu Pengfei, a paediatric doctor said Mr Liesheng's method "(15) _____ scientific basis" and that "education can only lead to a modest change in (16) _____."

ensure
IQ
hinder
begs
diagnosed
lacks
tough
footage

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120210-eagle_dad.html

A video of a father making his 4-year-old son _____ has caused outrage across the world. The man, He Lisheng, 44, calls himself "Eagle Dad" because he believes he will _____ and increase his intelligence if he trains him like eagles raise their young. Mr Lisheng recorded his son, He Yide, wearing just underpants and trainers _____ 13 degrees Centigrade blizzard. He said: "When the old eagle teaches its young, it takes the young eagles to the cliff side, beats them and _____ them to use their wings, and I believe I am helping my son in this way - _____ challenge limitations _____ expectations."

Lisheng said on Tuesday that his son _____ cerebral palsy when he was born and that this _____ intellectual development of his son. He explained that the tough training schedule, including jogging in the snow without clothes, would make his son as healthy _____ other children. He told CNN: "I consulted my doctor friends to ensure what we do is scientific and that it _____ body." In the video footage, little Yide is crying as he chases his father and begs to be picked up. Xu Pengfei, a paediatric doctor said Mr Lisheng's method "_____ " and that "education can only _____ change in IQ."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120210-eagle_dad.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'freezing' and 'weather'.

freezing	weather
-----------------	----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• train• strength• minus• minus• beats• own	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• born• tough• jogging• doctor• begs• change
--	---

RAISING CHILDREN SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120210-eagle_dad.html

Write five GOOD questions about raising children in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

RAISING CHILDREN DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'tough'?
- c) What kind of upbringing did you have?
- d) What do you think about what you read?
- e) What challenges did you present your parents with?
- f) Did your parents raise you in any ways you disagreed with?
- g) Do you think Mr Liesheng's training could have any value?
- h) Do you think Mr Liesheng should be arrested for cruelty to children?
- i) What do you think of the comparison with how eagles raise their young?
- j) What expectations have you exceeded?

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RAISING CHILDREN DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What's the most difficult thing about raising children?
- c) What can parents do to further the intelligence of their children?
- d) How would you feel about training in freezing conditions half naked?
- e) What do you think of Mr Liesheng as a father?
- f) Are you / Would you be a good parent?
- g) How has raising children changed over the past few decades?
- h) Should children be toughened up as they grow?
- i) What can change IQ besides education?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Mr Liesheng?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120210-eagle_dad.html

A video of a father making his 4-year-old son train (1) ____ freezing weather has caused outrage across the world. The man, He Lisheng, 44, calls himself "Eagle Dad" because he believes he will give his son strength and increase his intelligence if he trains him like eagles (2) ____ their young. Mr Lisheng recorded his son, He Yide, wearing just underpants and trainers running in (3) ____ minus 13 degrees Centigrade blizzard. He said: "When the old eagle teaches its (4) ____, it takes the young eagles to the cliff side, beats them and pushes them to teach them to use their wings, and I believe I am helping my son in this way - to (5) ____ him to challenge limitations and exceed his (6) ____ expectations."

Lisheng said on Tuesday that his son was diagnosed (7) ____ cerebral palsy when he was born and that this could (8) ____ the intellectual development of his son. He explained that the tough training schedule, including jogging in the snow without clothes, would make his son as healthy and intelligent as other children. He told CNN: "I (9) ____ my doctor friends to (10) ____ what we do is scientific and that it won't harm my son's body." In the video (11) ____, little Yide is crying as he chases his father and begs to be picked up. Xu Pengfei, a paediatric doctor said Mr Lisheng's method "lacks scientific basis" and that "education can only lead to a (12) ____ change in IQ."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) by | (b) on | (c) at | (d) in |
| 2. | (a) rise | (b) rose | (c) raise | (d) risen |
| 3. | (a) of | (b) a | (c) an | (d) as |
| 4. | (a) young | (b) youth | (c) children | (d) toddlers |
| 5. | (a) face | (b) farce | (c) force | (d) fierce |
| 6. | (a) self | (b) alone | (c) lonely | (d) own |
| 7. | (a) at | (b) with | (c) by | (d) of |
| 8. | (a) hinder | (b) date | (c) chance | (d) damaging |
| 9. | (a) resulted | (b) consulted | (c) exulted | (d) reputed |
| 10. | (a) sure | (b) insure | (c) ensure | (d) pleasure |
| 11. | (a) footage | (b) adage | (c) triage | (d) bandage |
| 12. | (a) modesty | (b) modern | (c) modernity | (d) modest |

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HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about raising children. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. RAISING CHILDREN: Make a poster about raising children. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. EAGLE DAD: Write a magazine article about Eagle Dad. Include imaginary interviews with him and a child-raising expert.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a child development expert. Ask him/her three questions about raising children. Give him/her three of your opinions on the best way to raise children. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T b. T c. F d. T e. T f. F g. F h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. freezing | a. subzero |
| 2. outrage | b. anger |
| 3. increase | c. raise |
| 4. force | d. make |
| 5. exceed | e. outdo |
| 6. diagnosed | f. identified |
| 7. hinder | g. hold back |
| 8. tough | h. punishing |
| 9. ensure | i. make certain |
| 10. modest | j. small |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. train in freezing | a. weather |
| 2. caused outrage | b. across the world |
| 3. increase his | c. intelligence |
| 4. force him to | d. challenge limitations |
| 5. exceed his own | e. expectations |
| 6. his son was diagnosed | f. with cerebral palsy |
| 7. hinder the intellectual | g. development of his son |
| 8. video | h. footage |
| 9. begs | i. to be picked up |
| 10. lead to a modest | j. change |

GAP FILL:

Father makes toddler train in blizzard

A video of a father making his 4-year-old son (1) **train** in freezing weather has caused (2) **outrage** across the world. The man, He Lisheng, 44, calls himself "Eagle Dad" because he believes he will give his son strength and (3) **increase** his intelligence if he trains him like eagles raise their young. Mr Lisheng recorded his son, He Yide, wearing just underpants and trainers running in a (4) **minus** 13 degrees Centigrade blizzard. He said: "When the old eagle teaches its young, it takes the young eagles to the cliff side, beats them and (5) **pushes** them to teach them to use their wings, and I (6) **believe** I am helping my son in this way - to (7) **force** him to challenge limitations and exceed his (8) **own** expectations."

Lisheng said on Tuesday that his son was (9) **diagnosed** with cerebral palsy when he was born and that this could (10) **hinder** the intellectual development of his son. He explained that the (11) **tough** training schedule, including jogging in the snow without clothes, would make his son as healthy and intelligent as other children. He told CNN: "I consulted my doctor friends to (12) **ensure** what we do is scientific and that it won't harm my son's body." In the video (13) **footage**, little Yide is crying as he chases his father and (14) **begs** to be picked up. Xu Pengfei, a paediatric doctor said Mr Lisheng's method "(15) **lacks** scientific basis" and that "education can only lead to a modest change in (16) **IQ**."

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - c 3 - b 4 - a 5 - c 6 - d 7 - b 8 - a 9 - b 10 - c 11 - a 12 - d