

OAJ, 22. ročník, obvodné kolo 2011/2012, kategória 2B

READING COMPREHENSION

Read the text carefully. There are two tasks to do on the next page.

Gender Roles Change at Work and Home

Gender roles are changing at work and at home, according to research the *Families and Work Institute* released in March 2009. Young men and women alike are challenging traditional gender roles in paid work as well as tending the household and children, according to the survey of 3,500 Americans.

Decades after women flooded into the workforce, new gender roles show up in the home as well as the office. The most striking finding published in the research is that women under 29 years old are just as likely as men to want jobs with more responsibility, for the first time in survey's history.

When young women who didn't want more responsibility were asked why in 2008:

- 31 percent cited increased job pressure,
- 19 percent already have a high-level job and
- 15 percent expressed concern about having enough flexibility to manage work and home.

The second trend researchers highlighted is that in 2008 survey, young mothers wanted more job responsibility than their peers who had no children. Looking at women under 29 in 1992, 78 percent of childless women versus 60 percent of mothers wanted more responsibility.

Also for the first time in survey's history, in 2008 roughly the same percentage of men and women believed in traditional gender roles. About 42 percent of men and 39 percent of women agreed with the statement that it's better for everyone "if the man earns the money and the woman takes care of the home and children." That's down from 74 percent of men and 52 percent of women who supported traditional gender roles in 1977.

Working fathers are spending one hour more on average workday with their children under 13 years of age, compared with 1977. Moms spend about the same time compared with three decades ago. The difference is greatest in fathers younger than 29. Men are also taking more responsibility for their children's care, which includes managing child-care arrangements. In 2008, 49 percent of men said they take most or an equal share of child-care responsibilities, up from 41 percent in 1992. Women agreed that dads are stepping up, with 30 percent saying their spouse takes or shares the responsibility, up from 21 percent in 1992.

In 2008, 56 percent of men said they do at least half the cooking, up from 34 percent in 1992. Wives see it slightly differently, with only 25 percent saying men do at least half, up from 15 percent in 1992.

As for house cleaning, there's an even greater difference of *perceiving* about who does the work. Fifty-three percent of men said they do at least half, up from 40 percent in 1992. But only 20 percent of women said their spouse does at least half, up from 18 percent in 1992, not a statistically *significant* difference.

"It has clearly become more socially acceptable for men to be and to say they are involved in childcare, cooking and cleaning over the past three decades than it was in the past," the report said.

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READING COMPREHENSION – TASKS

Based on what you have read in the article, decide whether the statements below are true (T) or false (F). Circle your answers. Be careful – the statements are not in the same order as the information in the article.

1. In 2008, men still did less cooking than their wives. T / F
2. Traditional views on gender roles changed only slightly between 1977 and 2008. T / F
3. Traditional gender roles, related to jobs and households, are being questioned equally by both sexes at a younger age. T / F
4. In 2008, the majority of women thought their partners did less house cleaning than they did. T / F
5. Working fathers increased the time spent with small children between 1977 and 2008. T / F
6. In 2008, the main reason for refusing a more responsible job for young women was their fear of not being able to manage both household and work. T / F
7. According to the published research, women under 30 were more reluctant to take up a job with more responsibility compared to men in the same age group. T / F
8. In 2008, women with children had a more positive attitude towards job responsibility. T / F

Choose the best synonym (a, b, c or d) for each of the words below as they are used in the article.

9. perceiving

- a) persuading b) viewing c) guessing d) expecting

10. significant

- a) increasing b) decreasing c) important d) minor

..... / 10 pts

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V O C A B U L A R Y

Choose the most suitable word or phrase to complete each sentence. Write the letter of your answer in the space provided.

1. After the dentist extracted my tooth, I was in
A. suffering B. peril C. aches D. agony
2. Rob spoke for so long at the conference that he became
A. speechless B. inarticulate C. hoarse D. dumb
3. Don't your head so hard, Jean. You'll make it sore.
A. itch B. scratch C. tear D. grate
4. The books you see here are the of four fully grown trees.
A. equivalent B. match C. counterpart D. parallel

Complete the article below by putting the word at the end of each line into the correct form in the gap in that line.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR CHILD GIFTED

Exceptional ability is the result of a close and (5) **CONSTRUCT**
relationship in childhood, claims Benjamin Bloom, professor at the University
of Chicago. In his study of 120 people especially talented in music, art, sport
and science he found that none of them showed (6) **REMARK**
talent in early life. It was (7) that made **PERSEVERE**
the difference. Of the musicians in the study, for example, reaching international
(8) took an average of 17 years, after their first **RECOGNIZE**
formal lessons. These high (9) were not **ACHIEVE**
the result of parental pressure and unremitting drill. Their specializations began
as an amusement and an (10) shared with a parent. **EXPLORE**

..... / 10 pts

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G R A M M A R

Fill in each of the numbered blanks in the passage with ONE suitable word.

A NEGLECTED REPAIR

Mrs Dawson is a widow of 78, living alone in a terraced house (0).....on..... Richmond Hill, built a century ago. In August 2010, she reported (1)..... the local housing manager that the down-pipe from the front guttering was cracked. The repair (2)..... not done and dampness spread (3)..... the house. This created other problems: wallpaper began to peel off the walls, and fungus developed. Mrs Dawson's carpets and curtains (4)..... wet. Her gas fires were insufficient to keep the damp at bay. Finally, (5)..... several complaints, the fractured down-pipe was replaced in the spring. Unfortunately, the house remained damp (6)..... the weather grew warmer, and problems then arose from the plaster as it dried (7)..... , and also from the window and door frames.

As it happens, Mrs Dawson is an energetic lady (8)..... is coping well with a problem which (9)..... have been solved promptly (10)..... a cost of 10 pounds. But the delay has created a health risk, and deterioration of the property (11)..... will involve greater expense, and unnecessary stress for a nice old lady.

..... / 11 pts

Complete each sentence in such a way that it means exactly the same as the sentence above it.

12. The window cleaners haven't been called for at least six months.

The last time.....

13. The suitcase was extremely heavy, but he managed to lift it easily.

Despite the suitcase

14. They continued to suggest I was lying.

They persisted in

15. I would prefer you to wear something more formal to work.

I'd rather

..... / 4 pts

Total:/15pts

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L I S T E N I N G

You will hear someone telling a friend about the unexpected event which occurred when he went to get a summer job. For questions 1 – 10, complete the notes, which summarize the story. Use ONE word only in each gap.

John decided to walk from the station to his **1** but he got very wet.

When he put his hand in his pocket for his **2** he found out that it was full of water. He tried to dry his **3** by hanging it over a radiator but it started to **4** He was worried about getting home because his **5** was useless.

Then a man arrived. He was soaked, like John, and he told the secretary that his car had broken down. He showed her his **6** , which seemed to have something wrong with it. He told her to say that he was away on **7** and that John should be given some **8** to cover his **9** He also said she should take John round the shop and the **10** and that she could give him the job if he seemed happy.

..... /5 pts (0.5pts each)