

Listening p44

Sentence completion

Key

- 1 the United States
- 2 dangers
- 3 (very) difficult / anything but easy
- 4 eat
- 5 the poorest families
- 6 time and money
- 7 free time

Audioscript

Presenter This afternoon we have in the studio the leading American child psychiatrist Dr. Ambrose Taylor, author of the book *Raising the next Tiger Woods*. Pleased to have you join us, Dr. Taylor.

Dr Taylor I'm very pleased to be here.

Presenter Now your book, I believe, is out here next month.

Dr Taylor I believe so, yes.

Presenter **And it has aroused a lot of interest – and criticism too, I might add – in the United States.**

Dr Taylor That's very true.

Presenter Now, for the benefit of the listeners, I think we should point out that it's not actually about what to do if you want your child to be the next Tiger Woods, is it?

Dr Taylor **No, it's more about the dangers of hyper-parenting.**

Presenter And by 'hyper-parenting' you mean?

Dr Taylor I mean treating your children as if they were in a competition. Hustling them from activity to activity in order to make their future resumé – or CV, for you – as impressive as possible.

Presenter **Now, it seems to me that raising a child is anything but easy these days** and that parents can't win. It used to be the case that if you took an interest in your child's development you were seen as a 'good' parent. Now you're just as likely to be seen as a 'pushy' parent.

Dr Taylor That is true. And it is very difficult for parents I agree. Unfortunately, what has happened is that parents have been led to believe that if they do all the right things, they can somehow programme their children for success. And it starts even before the children are born. **Pregnant mothers are told what they should and shouldn't eat**, and then after the baby's born they're told that if they play it Mozart this could speed its development, so they play it Mozart, and it just goes on from there.

Presenter So are you saying that this advice is wrong?

Dr Taylor I'm saying that advice like this has helped to create a very 'winner-takes-all' society – a sort of competition culture if you like.

Presenter Now you are an American and you have written about the situation over there. Would you say that the same applied here?

Dr Taylor Most definitely, yes. And in other parts of Europe too.

Presenter And would you say that this affects all sections of society?

Dr Taylor **I'd say it's pretty much the norm for all but the poorest families.**

Presenter But this is just keeping up with the Joneses, isn't it? This is nothing new.

Dr Taylor It isn't new, no. What is new though is the fact that, whereas before there were some parents who would push their children, this wasn't the norm. Now it is the norm. Parenting has become a very competitive thing. Parents are sending their children to gym classes or judo when they're five, French lessons when they're six. It has become a crazy sort of competition.

Presenter I imagine that parents who do this think that they're doing the right thing by giving their children the opportunity to develop any talents they might have, aren't they?

Dr Taylor Of course. They believe that if they don't push their children they are letting them down.

Presenter So are you condemning this outright?

Dr Taylor No, I am not condemning it outright. What I am saying is that there are dangers in it. If a child is very good at something, then of course a parent should support them and encourage them, but they need to be honest with themselves and ask themselves whether the interest is really the child's and not their own. **Also, a lot of problems can arise where parents invest an awful lot of their time and money in their children** and their children cannot live up to their expectations. It can be very destructive for the relationship and for the child's self-esteem. Not every child is going to grow up to be the next Tiger Woods or Venus Williams.

Presenter So what is the answer?

Dr Taylor The answer lies somewhere in the middle. Organise some structured activity for the child, by all means – if it's something that the child is genuinely interested in – but don't fill their day with structured activities. Give them some free time to fill for themselves. **Children need to learn to manage their free time**, otherwise when they get older and leave home they will lack the most basic self-management skills. They will simply not know what to do with their time.

Presenter That does seem like basic common sense, yes.

Dr Taylor And don't expect your child to be the next Tiger Woods either. It's only a few that will reach that level.

Presenter No. Well thank you for coming on the programme today, Dr Taylor. It's been very interesting. Now some music ...

Confusing verbs: rise, arise, raise

3 Key

a problem arises
a situation arises
raise someone's hopes
raise money
unemployment rises
raise the alarm
the sun rises

4

raise raised raised (transitive)
rise rose risen (intransitive)
arise arose arisen (intransitive)

Key

a raising d arises
b arise e was raised
c rose