

Unit 4 Why don't you talk to your parents? **Section B**

1a What activities do you like to do to help lower your stress? Order them [1-8] with 1 being the most favorite thing you do to lower stress.

- play sports
 - hang out with friends
- talk to parents or other family members
- spend time alone
- play computer games
 - read books watch movies what about you?

1c. Listen and check (✓) the problemsWei Ming talks about.

My parents give me a lot of pressure about school.

- I don't get enough sleep.
- **I** don't have enough free time.

I had a fight with my parents.

✓ I have to compete with my classmates at school.

1d. Listen again. What advice does Alice give to Wei Ming? Fill in the blanks.

1. Although you may be unhappy with your parents, you should talk to them. Ask them why they give you so much pressure 2. Life shouldn't just be about grades . Free time activities like sports and hanging out with friends are important, too. **3. You shouldn't complete with your** classmates to get better grades. You should all be helping each other to improve.

Pair Work

1e. What is your advice for Wei Ming? Tell your partner and say why.



2a. Check (✓) the after-school activities you and your classmates usually do.

do homework have after-school lessons watch movies use the Internet hang out with friends play sports or exercise what about you?

2b. Read the article and answer the questions.

- 1. What is the common problem for Chinese and American families ?
- 2. Who gives their opinions about the problem?

Guessing the Meaning When reading something for the first time, do not worry about words you do not know. Use the context to help you guess the meaning.

Maybe You Should Learn to Relax!

These days, Chinese children are sometimes busier on weekends than weekdays because they have to take so many after-school classes. Many of them are learning exam skills so that they can get into a good high school and later a good university. Others are practicing sports so that they can compete and win. However, this doesn't only happen in China.

The Taylors are a typical American family. Life for Cathy Taylor's three children is very busy. "On most days after school," Cathy says, "I take one of my two boys to basketball practice and my daughter to football training. Then I have to take my other son to piano lessons. Maybe I could cut out a few of their activities, but I believe these activities are important for my children's future. I really want them to be successful." However, the

tired children don't get home until after 7:00 p.m. They have a quick dinner, and then it's time for homework.

Linda Miller, a mother of three, knows all about such stress. "In some families, competition starts very young and continues until the kids get older," she says. "Mothers send their small kids to all kinds of classes. And they are always comparing them with other children. It's crazy. I don't think that' s

fair. Why don't they just let their kids be kids? People shouldn't push their kids so hard

Doctors say too much pressure is not good for a child's development. Dr. Alice Green says all these activities can cause a lot of stress for children. "Kids should have time to relax and think for themselves, too. Although it's normal to want successful childr it' s even more important to have happy children."

2c Look at the words in bold in the article. Can you guess their meanings? Try to match them with the meanings below.

- 1. Keeps on happening <u>continue</u>
- 2. Physical exercise and practice of skills training
- 3. Worries about things at home, school or

work stress

4. Usual or common typical

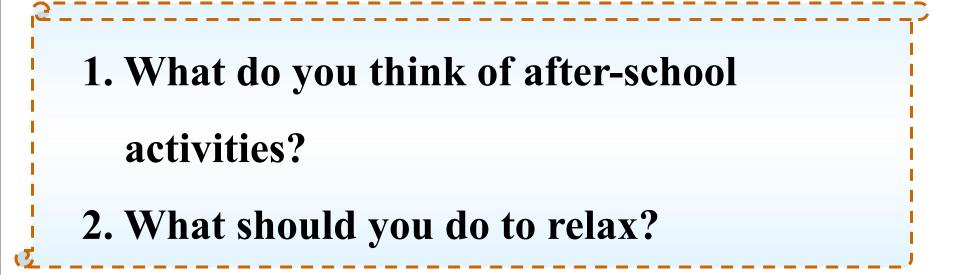
5. Try to be the best or the first to finish something <u>complete</u>
6. Getting better or bigger <u>development</u>
7. Looking for differences and similarities

between things <u>comparing</u>

2d Read the article again and answer the questions.

- Does Cathy Taylor think its important for kids to join after-school activities?
 Does Linda Miller agree with Cathy? What's her opinion?
- **3. Does Dr. Green agree with Cathy or Linda?** What does she say?

2e. Discuss the questions with your partner.



3a. A magazine interviewed some parents about after-school classes for children. Read the opinions below and make notes on your own opinions.

In my opinion, I agree ...



Why should children take after- school classes?	Your opinions
1. " after-school classes can help kids get into a good university."	Agree:
2. "I want my child to be a successful person."	Disagree:
3. "It's good for children to start learning from a young age."	Disugice

3b. Write a letter to the magazine to express your opinions on after-school classes for children. Use the following expressions to help you.

Try to write paragraphs First, say if you agree or disagree. Dear ..., I don't really agree with ... because ... Although some parents are right about ... I think children should ... Try to write paragraphs

Then, explain why.

In my opinion, it is important for children/ parents to ...

I believe it is better if children/parents ... so that...

Perhaps children/parents should/could ...

If children..., they will...

Language points

- **1. Maybe I could cut out a few of their activities,** but ...
- 此处cut out 是一个短语动词,表示"删除;剪下 或是"停止;戒除"等。再如:
- Don't cut your parents out of your lives. 不要把父母从你的生活中赶出去。
- If you cut out the drinking, you' d feel much healthier.
- 如果你戒酒,就会觉得身体好很多。

2. People shouldn' t push their kids so hard. 人们不该对自己的孩子逼得太紧。 动词push有"推;推动",例如: Don't push this poor, you have to pull it open. 别推这扇门,你的把它拉开才行。 本单元中, push 表示"使(某人)努力;鞭 策;督促",其后宾语可以是别人或自己。 e.g. The math teacher really pushes his students. That's why they don't like him that much. 那位数学老师确实对学生鞭策太多了,这就是 他们不那么喜欢他的原因。

I. Translate(翻译) 1.人们不该对自己的孩子逼得太紧。 **People shouldn'** t push their kids so hard. 2. 你为什么不买一块手表呢? Why don't you buy a watch? 3.不要把父母从你的生活中赶出去。 Don't cut your parents out of your lives. 4. 你喜欢和朋友一起闲逛吗? Would you like to hang out with friends?

II. Correct (改错)

1. People shouldn't push their kids so hardly.

(hard)

- 2. Why not talking to your parents? (talk)
- 3. --How about a book? --Sound good. (Sounds)
- 4. How about leave him a note?
 - (leaving)

III. Match

suggestions problems I' m very cold. Why not buy some new clothes? I have too much How about doing homework. it quickly? My clothes are What about going out of style. out to play? Why don't you close I have a day-off. the door?

Homework

Do you think it' s important for kids to join after- school activities? Why or why not? Discuss with your partner.

