

About a Boy – Chap 1&2: Two Boys/S.P.A.T.

Vocabulary

The following lines are from the script. Can you remember the scenes in which they were used? Try to remember without looking at the textbook.

- a) A hundred years ago for instance, you had to **depend on** other people. (8)
- b) She made £400 a week. Where was I going to get **that kind of** money from? (10)
- c) She could've been yours if you **got your act together**. (12)
- d) You've always had that wrong. I really am this **shallow**. (16)
- e) ...they had, however, being them, **neglected to** tell me one thing. (18)
- f) After being Will the Good Guy, I didn't **relish** going back to my role of Will the unreliable... (22)
- g) I'm not ready to **launch into** a relationship with anybody new. (22)
- h) The **frustrating** truth was that I didn't have any of their numbers. (30)
- i) How does he **cope with** that? (34)
- j) It's quite a famous song, and I basically live off the **royalties** from that. (40)

Complete the following sentences with the underlined words or phrases from above. Change the form of the words, or replace portions of the phrases so that they are grammatically correct and make sense. (do → did, me → him, etc.)

Yuka: You are graduating from university soon. It's time you _____ and found yourself a job.

Kenji: You're right, but there is so much paperwork involved. I don't think I can _____ that right now. Besides, the process of applying over and over again and being rejected is so _____! The last company rejected me just because I had _____ put my e-mail address on the application form!

Yuka: So you're just going to be unemployed and _____ your parents for money like a parasite?

Kenji: Do you really think I am that _____? I'll be taking care of my parents. I'm going to form a band and become a rock star. With all the _____ from my CDs, I'll be able to take care of myself and by my parents a nice new home.

Yuka: Fine. Be a rock star, but you can't just _____ a career as a musician. First you need to spend years practicing, performing, and building a fan base. You don't have _____ time. You need money now! Why don't you get an office job for now, and then work on your music career on weekends until you can achieve a bit of success.

Kenji: I guess you're right. I just don't _____ the thought of sitting behind a desk all day.

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Comprehension & Discussion

- 1) In the first scene, we hear the quote “no man is an island.” What does that mean? Do you think it is true? Does Will think it is true?
- 2) What does Marcus’s mother do for a living? What do you imagine that job to involve? Do you think she would be good at her job? Why or why not?
- 3) What is a “godfather”? Why does Will think he would be a poor one? What do you think should be expected of a good godfather or godmother?
- 4) Why did Will attend a meeting for single parents? Do you think it is OK to be dishonest with someone at the beginning of a relationship? Why or why not?
- 5) Will really wants to meet someone. What do you think are some good places to meet someone new for a relationship? Discuss with a partner and come up with some suggestions for your classmates.
- 6) Suzie referred to Marcus’s mother as occasionally being “off-colour.” What did she mean by that?

Vocabulary (Answers)

Yuka: You are graduating from university soon. It's time you **got your act together** and found yourself a job.

Kenji: Yeah, but there is so much paperwork involved. I don't think I can **cope with** that right now. Besides, the process of applying over and over again and being rejected is so **frustrating**! The last company rejected me just because I had **neglected to** put my e-mail address on the application form!

Yuka: So you're just going to be unemployed and **depend on** your parents for money like a parasite?

Kenji: Do you really think I am that **shallow**? I'll be taking care of my parents. I'm going to form a band and become a rock star. With all the **royalties** from my CDs, I'll be able to take care of myself and by my parents a nice new home.

Yuka: Fine. Be a rock star, but you can't just **launch into** a career as a musician. First you need to spend years practicing, performing, and building a fan base. You don't have **that kind of** time. You need money now! Why don't you get an office job for now, and then work on your music career on weekends until you can achieve a bit of success.

Kenji: I guess you're right. I just don't **relish** the thought of sitting behind a desk all day.