

CONCENTRATION AND DIVIDED ATTENTION

Exercise 2

1. Read the following texts out loud while students do something that is considered to be an automatic process: count from 1 to 50. Then, ask them to summarize the information they heard.
2. Repeat the exercise counting backwards from 50 to 1 (less automatic). Summarize the information heard.
3. Repeat the exercise asking the students to write a sentence while they listen to the information (controlled process). Summarize the information heard.

Example 1:

Self-defense: Be prepared for danger!

The latest U.S. Department of Justice crime figures show that personal crimes, which include sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault, are at their lowest levels on record. Property crimes, which include burglary, car theft, and theft, have stabilized after years of decline. Yet this is no time to be complacent. Many criminals prey on people who are off guard, say crime and self-defense specialists who talked with WebMD. Criminals look for people who are not paying attention to their surroundings, and then use the element of surprise to their advantage. “Criminals don’t want to get caught,” says Tony Farrenkopf, PhD, a clinical and forensic psychologist in private practice in Portland. “They ask themselves, ‘Does this person look attackable? Does this person look vulnerable? Can I get away with it?’”

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In the U.S., criminals were able to carry out 24 million crimes in 2004. For every 1,000 people age 12 and older, there occurred: One sexual assault, two assaults with injury and two robberies.

Example 2:

Education and Upbringing

From the moment of conception, parenting is demanding, exhilarating, exhausting and ennobling. It brings out the best in us; it highlights the worst. It is the love of the child that makes both the parents strong as well as vulnerable. They become decisive in the middle of a muddle. They are also vaguely worried about almost everything.

The Four Parenting Styles

1. **Authoritarian Parenting:** In this style of parenting, children are expected to follow the strict rules established by the parents.
2. **Authoritative Parenting:** Like authoritarian parents, those with an authoritative parenting style establish rules and guidelines that their children are expected to follow. However, this parenting style is much more democratic. Authoritative parents are responsive to their children and willing to listen to their questions. When children fail to meet their expectations, these parents are more nurturing and forgiving rather than punishing.
3. **Permissive Parenting:** Permissive parents, sometimes referred to as indulgent parents, make very few demands of their children. These parents rarely discipline their children because they have relatively low expectations of maturity and self-control.
4. **Uninvolved Parenting:** An uninvolved parenting style is characterized by few demands, low responsiveness and little communication. While these parents fulfill the child's basic needs, they are generally detached from their child's life. In extreme cases, these parents may even reject or neglect the needs of their children.

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Example 3:

Adoption and fostering

In family law, Adoption is the legal process that establishes a parent/child relationship between individuals who are not related by blood. The child will have the parents' name and the same legal rights as a child by birth, and the adoptive parents acquire all the legal rights, duties, and obligations of the child's natural parents.

Adoption preferences

Rich foreigners have been adopting children from poorer nations for decades. Mia Farrow, now the mother of 14, adopted an orphan from the Vietnam War in 1973. Angelina Jolie adopted her sons Maddox and Pax from Cambodia and Vietnam and her daughter Zahara from Ethiopia. But critics have slammed Madonna's efforts to adopt a second child from Malawi, accusing her of acting like a rich "bully" and using her money and status to fast-track the adoption process. However, Madonna insisted she was following standard procedures.

Many adoption agencies and child rights activists argue it is preferable for children to be taken care of by relatives or in their communities, with foreign adoptions allowed only as a last resort. Others say that isn't always realistic. "Ideally more local adoptions would be best, but people aren't coming forward and if life is better out there then they should take it," said Zoe Cohen, a private adoption consultant in South Africa.

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