

I. This is a letter of advice from a newspaper columnist. First read the Question. Discuss the underlined words or phrases. Then read the Answer. Discuss the underlined words or phrases. Then read the discussion questions and discuss with your group.

Q My father in law calls my son, 6, his favorite. This really hurts my daughter, 8. For years she's tried to win his affection---he just doesn't notice. My husband has mentioned the problem to him, but he blows it off. How can I get him to change?

A Dear Sad,

Grammar rule No.1: parents and grandparents may not use favorite as an adjective applied to kids. Your father in law's word usage is inappropriate. This can't be tolerated. Tell hubby it's time to have a real sit down grammar lesson with his dad. No home visits until he does his homework and passes the test. A grandparent's job is to love all the grandchildren---period.

Discussion:

Do you agree with the advice? What would you have said?

Have you ever been the victim of favoritism in your family?

Are you the favorite of anyone in your family?

Do you have a favorite grandparent? Tell about them.

Is it hard to keep from having a favorite when you are raising children?

Here are some letters asking for advice. Work in groups of 3 to decide what advice to give. Write it down. When you are back with your group, compare your answers.

Q I am in love with a wonderful girl. The problem is I am afraid to tell her. We have only dated a couple of weeks, but I know she is the girl for me. I feel like I must tell her I love her right away or she will stop dating me. Please tell me what to do.

A

Q My problem is my sister. She is the darling of our family. She is very spoiled. No one makes her do anything. I mow the yard and take out the trash. I have to empty the dishwasher as well. What chores does my sister do? NONE! She just lies around watching TV or texting with her friends. When she says she needs a new dress, my mother dashes off to the mall with her to buy her something. I have to work for anything I want. I'm really fed up. I'm only 16, but I really want to move out.

A

Q Please give me advice. In my country, girls are expected to marry early. I am 18 and my parents want me to marry a boy who lives near us. My parents are friends with his parents. I like this boy, but I do not love him. I do not want to marry him. I want to go to college. My high school teacher found a scholarship for me. My dream is to go to college and be a nurse. But my parents must give permission for me to go. If they say no, I will just die of misery. Tell me what to do.

A

Q My wife complains that I don't spend enough time with her and the kids. I tell her that I have to work. My job is to support the family. I work unloading heavy crates from trucks. When I come home, I want to put my feet up and relax. I don't want to be running out to the park or taking the kids shopping. My wife doesn't work. It is her job to take care of the kids. I am a good husband. I work hard and provide a good income for my family. If the kids need money for anything, I give it to them. I don't understand why I have to be superman dad. Please tell me how to get my wife off my back.

A

II. Remember that ADVICE is a noun. ADVISE is a verb. You can ask for advice. But you cannot advice someone. You advise them. The spelling and pronunciation is different. Write a sentence with ADVICE and ADVISE. Read them to your group.

III. The intermediate classes have been studying the future tense. They have learned that there are two ways to talk about future plans. We can say: I will go to the mall on Saturday. OR I am going to go to the mall on Saturday.

Both mean the same. You are planning to do something in the future. Change the sentences below from WILL to GOING TO . The first one is done for you.

1. The children will begin school on Friday.

The children are going to begin school on Friday.

2. Josh will start his vacation next month.

3. They will approach the realtor with an offer.

4. The building will be torn down this week.

We can also use present continuous to talk about future plans. EX: *The boys will cook for us on Saturday.*

BECOMES *The boys are cooking for us on Saturday.* Change the sentences above into present continuous tense.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.