

**1 — — Vocabulary: Students and discuss each vocabulary entry.**

**repercussion**-a result that is produced by an event or action. Often a repercussion is an unintended result. Ex: There were many unpleasant repercussions when the U.S. deposed Saddam Hussein. The falling price of oil will have repercussions for the Saudi Arabian economy.

**phenomenon**-an observable event. Example: Lightning is a natural phenomenon. The phenomenon of immigration from Muslim countries cannot be solely explained by economics.

**recruit**-to get people to join or work for an organization Ex: The Army recruits soldiers to serve their country. The service industry recruits many high school students.

**challenging**-something that requires great effort Ex: Many people find our advanced English classes very challenging. Running a marathon was a challenging experience.

**praise**-express approval Ex: The father praised his daughter for making an A on the exam. I praise my students when they get a correct answer.

**trophy**-a prize given to the winner of a competition Ex: Our soccer team won the tournament and received a large trophy. The coach gave a trophy to each of the boys who scored.

**ominous**-threatening Ex: The ominous black clouds filled the sky.

**sense of entitlement**-the feeling that you have the right to whatever you want. This is sometimes expressed with the saying “the world owes me a living”. Ex: Students at the expensive private school feel sure they will be offered six figure salaries when they graduate. They have a real sense of entitlement. It never occurs to them that they must work hard to earn their salary.

**2 — — Read the article below and answer the discussion questions at the bottom.****How Will the Overpraised Generation Fare?**

Jean Twenge (Jean Twenge, an associate professor of psychology at San Diego State University, is the author of “Generation Me.”)

Not long ago, many employers were trying to recruit younger workers and — even more challenging — keep them happy enough to stay more than six months. Employees in their 20s and early 30s had high expectations: they were part of an overpraised generation raised when every child got a trophy for showing up. Other researchers and I concluded they were going to find the reality of adulthood a cold, hard shock.

As a manager told me a few years ago about young workers’ sense of entitlement, “We’ll put up with it,” he said ominously, “until unemployment goes up.” Now it has.

This generation didn’t ask to be overpraised and underprepared. That comes courtesy of their upbringing. But they are now having to go through some adjustment, particularly if their parents can no longer jump in to pay condo mortgages, college debts or credit card bills.

The Generation Me workers are amending some of their beliefs; some recent surveys show they are suddenly paying more attention to job security, for example. But their other traits — including overconfidence and entitlement — will be more difficult to shake. In a recent survey of college students,

two-thirds said their professors should give them special consideration if they mentioned they were working hard, a third expected to earn a B just for attending class, and a third expected their final exam to be scheduled around their vacations. As these students enter the work force in a down economy, they're in for an extremely bumpy ride.

**3— — Discuss in groups:**

What might be the repercussions for the “overpraised” generation.

Is this a topic you have heard of before?

Do you believe it's true that there is a whole generation of people who have a sense of entitlement?

Is this an American phenomenon or is it worldwide?