

# Active Dads Make Families Happier

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6 Intermediate

Culture & Entertainment

## Exercise 1

### Vocabulary

#### stroller

Noun

*/ˈstrɒlər/* a small chair on wheels that a baby or small child sits in

We were given two **strollers** at our baby shower!

#### rear

Verb

*/rɪr/* to raise a child

She **reared** the two children all by herself.

#### conclude

Verb

*/kənˈkluːd/* to decide that something is true using reason

The report **concluded** that sales grew quickly this year.

#### generation

Noun

*/ˌdʒenəˈreɪʃən/*

all of the people who were born at about the same time regarded as a group; one stage or step in a family's history

Today's younger **generations** are comfortable using technology.

#### lure

Verb

*/lʊr/* to make someone do something, go somewhere, etc., especially by offering a reward

The event was organized in an attempt to **lure** customers into the store.

#### subsidize

Verb

*/ˈsəbsɪˌdaɪz/* to pay some of the cost of certain goods or services

The government has been **subsidizing** the dairy industry for many years.

## Exercise 2

### Article

#### Active Dads Make Families Happier

Men with strollers are a common sight in Washington. And on average, American men are spending more time today with their children than their fathers did.

Compared with fathers in 1965, modern dads spend an extra 4.4 hours on child-rearing and 4.6 hours on housework each week.

Several studies show that children whose fathers share child-rearing and housework are happier, have fewer emotional and behavioral issues, and are more successful in school.

Researchers at the University of California-Riverside found that school-aged children who do housework with their fathers are likely to have more friends and are less likely to get in trouble with their teachers.

Economist Ann Crittenden interviewed Greger Hatt of Sweden, who said: "A lot of boys don't meet a daytime man until they are 10 years old," only seeing female mothers, nurses and teachers.

In her book "Price of Motherhood", Crittenden concludes that attitudes toward the role of fathers can change within just one generation.

Why Sweden made the switch is fascinating: When Sweden had worker shortages in the 1960s, it considered whether to increase immigration or to bring more mothers into the workforce.

Sweden chose mothers. The government lured women from their homes with paid maternity leave, subsidized day care, and more flexibility at work.

## Exercise 3

### Questions

1. What did researchers at the University of California-Riverside find?
2. What problem did Sweden face in the 1960s?

3. How did the Swedish government lure women into the workforce?

#### Exercise 4

#### Discussion

1. Are men with strollers a common sight in your town or city?
2. Why do you think fathers in the U.S. spend more time with their children than previous generations did?
3. Have attitudes toward the role of fathers changed in your country over the last 50 years? Please explain your answer.
4. In your experience, do men spend more time doing housework than they used to? Please explain your answer.
5. Do you remember much about your childhood? If so, what is your favorite memory?

#### Exercise 5

#### Further Discussion

1. Is day care expensive where you live? If so, do you think it should be subsidized?
2. Are new fathers entitled to time off work in your country? Please explain your answer.
3. Are the majority of teachers and nurses in your country female? If so, why do you think this is the case?
4. Would you say that some parents expect too much from their children? Please explain your answer.
5. *A father is a man who expects his son to be as good a man as he meant to be.* - Frank A. Clark. What do you make of this statement?

#### Exercises for Further Self-Study

These self-study exercises are optional and should be carried out after the lesson has finished.

### Exercise 6

## Sentence Building

Write at least one sentence for each of the words in **Exercise 1: Vocabulary**. Begin by making sure you understand the **definition** of each word. Use the example sentences as a guide if you are unable to think of a sentence. Practice reading your sentences out loud.

### Exercise 7

## Summary

Make a brief summary of the article. Focus on the main topic and consider which pieces of information are most important. Make sure you include details such as what the article is about, who is mentioned in it, where and when the events took place, and also how and why they happened.

### Parts of this lesson are based on:

[An article](#) by Voice of America.

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