

## Language

Study this sentence from the second letter. Notice the phrasal verb with two particles 'to do away with' meaning *to abolish*.

*Let us hope that they have the courage to do away with the physical punishment of children.*

Match the phrasal verbs underlined in the sentences 1-8 with the definitions a-h below:

1. My brother was always in trouble but he was too honest. If I was in trouble I always denied doing anything wrong and I usually got away with it!
2. When I look back on my childhood, I realise my parents treated me really very fairly.
3. If I ran out of money, I would sometimes 'borrow' some from my mother's purse.
4. Sometimes I wished my dad would just give me a smack. It would have been better than listening to him going on about 'responsibility'.
5. I can remember the first time I stood up to my dad. He wanted to punish me for coming back after midnight when I was 15 but I just told him I wasn't a child any longer and he couldn't tell me what to do.
6. I don't exactly look down on parents who smack their children, but I do think that they could find other ways of disciplining their children if they really thought about it.
7. I was really badly behaved when I was a teenager but I seemed to grow out of it when I reached my early twenties.
8. I didn't get into much trouble at school – except for once when I was caught fooling around with some chemicals in a science laboratory.

- a. to not run away from, to resist
- b. to escape without punishment
- c. to consider inferior
- d. to think about something in the past
- e. to become too old to do something
- f. to not have any left
- g. to behave irresponsibly
- h. to talk about something for a long time and in a boring way

Work in pairs. Look at the sentences again. Are any of them true for you?

Do any of them remind you of people you know or knew?



*"Frankly, I feel he over-disciplines his animals."*

## Discussion

Work in pairs or small groups. Discuss these questions:

1. Which, if any, of the punishments below do you think are unsuitable for children above the age of three?
    - a. a quick smack on the hand
    - b. a quick smack on the back of the head
    - c. a smack on the bottom
    - d. a smack on the bare bottom
    - e. a blow from a slipper on the bare bottom
    - f. a blow from a belt on the hand
    - g. a blow from a cane on the bottom
- Would it make any difference if the child was a boy or a girl?  
What other factors might determine whether a particular punishment was reasonable or not?
2. Which, if any, of these punishments do you think is acceptable?
    - a. sending a child to their bedroom for an hour
    - b. not allowing the child to play with their friends for a week
    - c. stopping the child's pocket money
    - d. not allowing the child to watch TV for a week
    - e. making the child stay behind at school to do extra work
    - f. giving the child extra jobs around the house
  3. At what age do you think it is no longer necessary or appropriate to discipline children?