THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTING

Benjamin Carson

GETTING READY

Listen and read about the essayist.

Meet Benjamin Carson

Benjamin Carson grew up poor. His mother worked multiple jobs cleaning houses. His dream was to be a doctor. In school, Carson went from being an “A” student to almost failing, and then back to being an “A” student. Today, Carson is a pediatric neurosurgeon. He does brain surgery on children. He believes he is successful because of what he learned from his mother while he was growing up.
Connect to the Topic

Discuss this question with a partner.

Carson believes in the importance of good parenting. Which two personal qualities are most important for a good parent to have? Add your own ideas. Then explain your choices.

caring   hardworking   optimistic   strict
funny    honest        practical   thrifty

Glossary

You will hear these words and expressions in the essay. Read their definitions before you listen.

domestic /dəˈmɛstɪk/ n. someone who gets paid to clean houses and cook

ruse /ruz/ n. a trick

allocate /əˈloʊtɪt/ v. decide how money or time will be used

keep a roof over (one's) head
/ˈkip əˈruf əʊvə/ exp. pay for a place to live

faith /fæθ/ n. a strong belief in something

surgical procedure /ˈsɜːdʒɪkal prəˈsɪdʒə/ n. a doctor cutting open a person to repair or replace something inside the person's body

medical scare /mɛdɪˈkæl skər/ exp. a serious illness

---

1 making sure that rules are obeyed
2 spending money carefully
LISTENING

Listen for Main Ideas

Read these sentences. Then listen to Carson’s essay. Circle the letter of the answer that best completes each sentence.

1. When Carson was a kid, he had to ______ a week.
   a. read two books  b. watch two TV shows  c. write in his diary two days

2. Carson also had to ______.
   a. babysit his brother  b. clean houses  c. write book reports

3. Carson later found out his mother couldn’t ______.
   a. drive  b. sew  c. read

4. When Carson first entered high school, he ______ good grades.
   a. wanted to get  b. didn’t get  c. didn’t care about getting

5. A few years ago, he discovered he had ______.
   a. no money  b. a serious disease  c. no patients

6. Carson’s ______ had faith that he would get better.
   a. mother  b. wife  c. father

Vocabulary for Comprehension

Read and listen to the passage. Then match the boldfaced words and expressions with their definitions on page 26.

As a kid, Carson could not watch more than three (1) pre-selected TV shows a week. He had to read two books and (2) submit two written reports to his mother. He thought his mother read his reports, but later he found out she was (3) illiterate and didn’t understand any of them.
In high school, Carson wanted to wear fancy Italian shirts like the other students. His mother gave him all the money she made that week. She told him to buy new shirts—but only after he paid all the bills. When he got through paying the bills, there was no money left over to buy shirts. Then Carson realized that he couldn't have immediate gratification. He had to be patient and work hard for the things he wanted.

Carson worked hard and eventually he became a doctor when he grew up. He was a brain surgeon, so he was faced with many difficult surgical procedures.

Later, he had a serious illness. Although he was very scared, his mother had faith that he would be cured. She believed he would live a long, healthy life. Her strong belief helped Carson deal with his difficult job and his illness.

____ healed; made healthy ______ pleasure or reward received
____ after a long time ______ very quickly
____ had to deal with ______ not used, extra, remaining
____ finished, completed ______ chosen in advance
____ unable to read or write ______ give something to someone

(in a formal way)

BACKGROUND NOTES

Some twins are born physically connected, and surgery can separate them. This is very dangerous surgery and takes a great deal of skill. Benjamin Carson is well known for this type of pediatric neurosurgery. Carson began performing this surgery in 1987, when he and a large medical team successfully separated twin boys who were connected at the head.
Listen for Details

A  Read these sentences. Then listen to Carson’s essay again. Write $T$ (true) or $F$ (false).

1. Carson learned that successful people read a lot.
2. He found out that it’s important to wear nice clothes and look good.
3. Carson realized that working hard is necessary for success.
4. He discovered that dreams can come true.
5. Carson learned that faith gives people hope.

B  In his essay, Carson tells us about his mother. Read these sentences. Then listen to the essay again. Check (√) the topics he mentions.

Mrs. Carson:

1. spent a lot of time at the Detroit Public Library.
2. complained about working multiple jobs.
3. put a roof over her children’s heads.
4. gave them food and clothes even though she didn’t earn a lot of money.
5. believed in immediate gratification.
6. had strong faith.
7. was an inspiration.

REACTING TO THE ESSAY

Discuss your answers to these questions.

1. After listening to the essay, has your answer to the Connect to the Topic question on page 24 changed? Explain.
2. Carson believes that there is no job more important than parenting. What is your opinion about this? Do you agree? Is there a more important job? Explain.
3. Do you think Mrs. Carson’s life is different today than it was when Benjamin was young? Explain.
In his essay, Benjamin Carson states he learned important things from his mother that helped him become successful. He believes that there is no job more important than parenting. In this section, you will tell a story about how you learned something important from a parent, family member, or another person.

Build Fluency

Language: Simple Past and Past Progressive

**SIMPLE PAST**

To discuss actions, states, and situations that are now completed, use the simple past.

**Regular verbs**
Add -ed or -ed to the base form of the verb.

**EXAMPLE:**
Carson watched two pre-selected TV shows a week.

**Irregular verbs**
Use the irregular past form, such as was, were, had, went, did, and said.

**EXAMPLE:**
Every week, he read two books and wrote two book reports.

**Negative Sentences**
Use didn’t + the base form of the verb.

**EXAMPLE:**
Carson didn’t spend a lot of money on clothes.

**PAST PROGRESSIVE**

Use the subject + was/were + the base form of the verb + -ing.

**EXAMPLES:**
Mrs. Carson was working at 7:30 in the morning.

Carson was reading while his mom was cleaning houses.
Use the simple past with the past progressive to show that one action interrupted another action in the past.

**Example:**

When is followed by the simple past.

Ben was writing a book report when Mrs. Carson told him to come to dinner.

While is followed by the past progressive.

While Carson was paying the bills, he realized his mother was a genius with money.

If two past actions continue at the same time, use past continuous in both parts of the sentence.

While my mother was washing the dishes, I was doing my homework.

**Practice** Complete these sentences. Use the simple past or past progressive form of the verbs in parentheses.

I'll never forget the time my mom caught me lying. It was a Friday afternoon, and my mom always worked on Fridays, so I (1) **decided** (decide) this was a good day to skip school. While my mother (2) **took** a shower, I (3) **called** (call) my best friend, Sue, to make plans. I (4) **told** (tell) my mother I was too sick to go to school. Then Sue and I (5) **took** the public bus to the mall. While we (6) **shopped** (shop), my mother suddenly (7) **appeared** (appear). What a shock!! When my mother (8) **saw** (see) us, she (9) **got** (get) very angry. Mom (10) **brought** (bring) Sue and me back to school to talk to the principal. While I (11)
(tell) the principal the story, Sue (12)

(look) at the floor because she was so embarrassed. That was bad, but the
worst part is that my mother will not trust me for a long time because I
lied to her.

Pronunciation: Regular Past Tense Endings

The regular past tense -ed ending can be pronounced three ways:
/ɪd/, /t/ and /d/. The pronunciation depends on the last sound in the verb. Listen
to the examples.

• If the verb ends with a t or d sound, -ed is pronounced /ɪd/ and is a
  separate syllable.
  EXAMPLES: attended started

• If the verb ends with a voiceless sound, (such as /pl/, /l/, /l/, /l/, /l/, /l/,
or /l/), -ed is pronounced /t/ and is connected to the last syllable.
  EXAMPLES: stopped dashed

• If the verb ends with a voiced sound, (such as /l/, /l/, /l/, /l/, /l/, /l/,
or /l/, /l/, or a vowel), -ed is pronounced /d/ and is connected to the last syllable.
  EXAMPLES: changed lived

A PRACTICE Listen and write the words into the correct column in
the chart on page 31. Then practice saying the words.

| announced | handed | submitted |
| decided  | observed | wanted |
| dreamed  | realized | watched |
| faced    | received | wished  |
Listen and practice saying these sentences with a partner. Pay attention to the pronunciation of the -ed endings.

1. Ben Carson dreamed of becoming a doctor.
2. Mrs. Carson observed that successful people spend more time reading than watching television.
3. Mrs. Carson announced that her children could only watch two to three preselected television programs during the week.
4. When Carson was in high school, he wanted to wear fancy clothes.

Get Ready to Speak

**Task**

**Describing Past Events**

In groups, tell a story about a time when a family member or another person helped you learn something important. Present your stories in groups.

1. Work alone. Think about lessons you have learned in life and who taught them to you. Important lessons one learns about life might include: always tell the truth, don't wait to do something that you can do right now, save your money because you might need it later, etc. Then choose one of the lessons. Think about whom you learned this lesson from.
Prepare to tell your story by taking notes. Think about these questions:

- Where were you?
- When did this happen?
- Whom were you with?
- What did this person teach you?
- Why was this important for you to learn?
- How has this lesson been helpful to you since that time?

2. Work in pairs. Use your notes to tell a partner a story about a time you learned something important. Practice a few times to get comfortable and to improve the fluency of the presentation. Your partner will ask a question to get more details.

Remember to:

- use the simple past and the past progressive.
- pronounce regular past tense endings /t/, /d/, and /id/.

**USEFUL EXPRESSIONS**

**Starting a story**

I'll never forget when . . .

I remember when . . .

Did I tell you about the time . . .?

**Speak**

Get together with another pair. Tell your story. The others in the group will take notes on each story. Then ask questions to get more information. Add this information to your notes.
WRITING

Read these topics. Choose one to write about.

1. Ben Carson believes there is no job more important than parenting. What are some lessons he learned from his mother? Refer to your answers from the Listen for Details section on page 27. Explain what he learned, and give an example from Carson's essay.

2. Write about a time someone helped you to learn an important lesson. Use your notes from your presentation in the Speaking section on page 31 to help you organize your details.

3. Ben Carson's mother had an important influence on his life. She was his role model. Write about someone who has been a role model for you. Who is this person? What qualities made him or her a good role model? Explain.

What do you believe?

As you listen to the essays in this book, think about your beliefs. Write your own What I Believe essay. Follow the steps on pages 127-130.