

phrases & terms: **sth = something; sb = somebody.

routine = the set of things you regularly do (e.g., online class, online research, study a book, write a paper...)

to suspect (v) = think sth is probably true (usually in a negative situation) ***Ben suspects that Sue is cheating on him.***

criticize = to forcefully scold or "strike back at" sb who did sth that you were unhappy about; to be *critical* in a negative way

jealous = a negative emotion you feel when someone has sth that you wish you had or that you used to have (e.g., a former girlfriend, or a parent's former control on a child)

sit around all day = don't do any kind of meaningful activity all day (including work or study)

despite = in spite of; used to say that sth happens or is true even though something else might have prevented it

sleep in = get up late in the morning ***She likes to sleep in on Saturdays, usually until 11:00 AM.***

sleep late = get up late in the morning ***She likes to sleep late on Saturdays, usually until 11:00 AM.***

go to sleep late = go to bed late at night ***She likes to go to sleep late on Saturdays, usually 1:00 AM.***

go to sleep early = go to bed early in the evening ***She likes to go to sleep early on Sundays, usually 9:30 PM.***

oversleep = wake up later than you planned to wake up

plainly = clearly

it would be a shame = it would be sad, wasteful or disappointing

not (adj.) at all = not even a little (adj.) ***Barry isn't worried at all about his upcoming job interview.***

not at all (adj.) = not even a little (adj.); totally not (adj.) ***Barry isn't at all worried about his upcoming job interview.***

Steve is a student whose university currently offers classes only online due to COVID-19. He left his dorm and now lives at home with his parents again, and he's enjoying his study routine. However, his parents have recently been criticizing Steve more and more. He suspects it's because they are jealous of his casual schedule, because they remember working hard in college, with many hours spent in the library or at a part-time job. His parents constantly accuse Steve of being lazy, though he says he doesn't sit around all day. He faithfully does his online classwork and homework, and has a solid "B" average. In addition, he does the yard work, takes care of the family's cars, takes care of their pets, and does all the grocery shopping. He also does his own laundry, and helps with dish washing and general cleanup. Despite all this, his parents still complain that he sleeps late in the morning (he usually gets up at 9 AM) and "isn't working hard enough." Steve is tired of the criticism, but would rather live at home than spend money on an apartment near his university. He discussed the situation with his close friend Kenny, asking whether or not he should either get a part-time job or move back to his university town. Kenny thinks it might be a good idea to get a job (though it would increase the risk of COVID), but told him not to start looking for work until his parents have told him plainly why they have become so critical. Perhaps all they want is for Steve to get up and have breakfast with them every morning, or maybe they don't really understand his situation. Kenny thinks it would be a shame if Steve moves or gets a job, only to realize later that something else was causing his parents to complain. Steve deserves to know what's really bothering his parents, because in fact he is not lazy at all.

Questions:

1. What is your opinion of Steve? Why? What is your opinion of his parents? Why?
2. What do you think is probably the real problem between Steve and his parents; i.e., the root problem?
3. If you were Steve's close friend, what would you advise him to do and not to do in this situation? Why?
4. James 1:19 says: "My dear friends, you should be quick to listen and slow to speak or to get angry." Do you think this advice is helpful in Steve's situation? Explain.
5. What are some ways that life is different for a student today, than it was for his/her parents?
6. Do you think college students should have part-time jobs? Explain. How does COVID-19 affect your answer?
7. Has anyone ever accused you of being lazy, when in fact you weren't? If so, why did he/she think you were lazy, and how did you handle that situation?
8. What are your sleep habits Sunday through Thursday nights? What are your sleep habits Friday and Saturday nights? (Try to include some of these phrases in your answer: sleep in, sleep late, go to sleep late, go to sleep early, oversleep, get enough sleep, don't get enough sleep, I'm a light sleeper, I'm a heavy sleeper, I'm a restless sleeper, etc.)
9. Besides a lack of understanding, what are 1-2 other common reasons for conflict between family members? Explain.

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Steve is a university student. Because of COVID-19, his university offers classes only online. He left school and now lives with his parents again. He enjoys his study routine. However, his parents often criticize him. He thinks it's because they are jealous. When they were in college, they spent many hours in the library or at a part-time job. Steve does his online classwork and homework, and has a "B" average. In addition, he does the yard work at home, takes care of their pets, does all the grocery shopping, and helps in other ways. Despite all this, his parents still complain that he sleeps late in the morning (usually until 9 AM) and "isn't working hard enough." Steve is tired of being called lazy, but would rather live at home than spend money on an apartment. He discussed the situation with his close friend. "Kenny, should I either get a part-time job or move back to my university town?" Kenny thinks it might be a good idea to get a job, but told Steve not to make a decision until his parents plainly tell him why they have become so critical. Perhaps they simply want to spend more time with Steve, such as during breakfast. Kenny thinks that Steve deserves to know what's really bothering his parents, because in fact he is not lazy at all.

Questions: (Do you have any questions for the teacher?)

Content questions:

- a. Why doesn't Steve's university have classes "in person"?
 - b. Why does Steve think that his parents criticize him?
 - c. What time does Steve get up every morning?
 - d. What is the name of Steve's close friend?
1. What is your opinion of Steve? Why? What is your opinion of his parents? Why?
 2. What do you think is probably the real problem between Steve and his parents?
 3. If you were Steve's close friend, what would you advise him to do and not to do in this situation? Why?
 4. James 1:19 says: "My dear friends, you should be quick to listen and slow to speak or to get angry." Do you think this advice is helpful in Steve's situation? Explain.
 5. What are some ways that life is different for a student today, than it was for his/her parents?
 6. What are your sleep habits Sunday through Thursday nights? What time is "too late" to go to bed, or to get up?
 7. Besides a lack of understanding, what are 1-2 other common reasons for conflict between family members? Explain.

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These lessons were created or adapted by the staff of International Friendship Ministries, P.O. Box 12504, Columbia SC 29211; ifmusa.org; info@ifmusa.org. IFM is grateful to Kathy Williams for most of the original work. Some lessons were adapted from EFLsuccess.com (with permission). IFM makes these lessons available to our participants, but this does not imply our consent for others to publish these lessons online or in print without permission.

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