

## Embarrassing parents 父母会让你难为情吗？

*Vocabulary: shame* 词汇: 羞愧

When your mum tries to use slang do you **blush**? Do you **cringe** when she calls you by your childhood nickname in front of your friends? And how about searching for the nearest exit when your father engages in a **dad dancing routine**? Loving them dearly doesn't prevent you from feeling **uncomfortable** around them.



And parents have to accept that. Adam Gopnick, a writer for the New Yorker magazine, said in an article published by the BBC: "The one thing that is written into the human genome is that exactly at the age of 13, your child... will discover that you are now the most embarrassing, **ridiculous** and **annoying** person on the planet."

A survey by the site YoungPoll.com in 2010 suggested that one in three youngsters is so **disconcerted** by their parents they refuse to be seen with them in public; and seven in ten children are **humiliated** by their mum and dad's behavior, like kissing them in front of friends and holding their hands.

Part of going through adolescence is a sudden feeling that we are wise and self-sufficient and we are **shown up** when treated like vulnerable minors. But we are bound to lose this **chip on our shoulder** when we reach our 20s.

Gopnick reminds us of writer and visionary William Blake's comment: "When I was 14 my dad was so ignorant I wouldn't even walk down the street with him. By the time I was 21 I was amazed how much he'd learnt."

In any case, **resentful** parents might find solace in the thought that their grandchildren are likely to end up enjoying their company. Then the **uncool** ones will be the grandchildren's parents!

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

## Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. According to the article, what name, when mentioned in front of friends, makes people feel bad?
2. When do people start feeling embarrassed about their parents?
3. According to the survey mentioned, what sort of parental acts make children feel humiliated?
4. True, false or not given: *William Blake's father went back to school and had learned a lot by the time the writer was 21.*
5. What expression is used in the article to describe someone who is easily offended?

## Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Mr Jones loves to play his bagpipes. Looking \_\_\_\_\_, his daughter is always around to ask him to stop making noise.

disorganised	disconcerted	disconnected	dad dancing
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2. In the movie 'The Iron Lady' Margaret Thatcher is portrayed as a mother who puts her career above all else, and has a chip on her \_\_\_\_\_ about being a "grocer's daughter".

head	spot	knee	shoulder
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3. I \_\_\_\_\_ with embarrassment when I see people throwing rubbish in our town's beauty spots.

cringe	refuse	engage	humiliate
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4. Ann works hard and should have been given a promotion. It's no surprise she feels \_\_\_\_\_ towards her boss.

uncool	annoying	self-sufficient	resentful
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5. Many people think it is \_\_\_\_\_ to use a typewriter in the 21st century.

embarrassment	resentful	uncool	cringe
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## **Answers and Glossary** 答案与词汇

### **Quiz** 小测验

1. According to the article, what name, when mentioned in front of friends, makes people feel bad? Their childhood nickname when mentioned by their parents in front of friends.
2. When do people start feeling embarrassed about their parents? Adam Gopnik says that it happens at the age of 13.
3. According to the survey mentioned, what sort of parental acts make children feel humiliated? When they kiss their children or hold their hands in front of the minor's friends.
4. True, false or not given: *William Blake's father went back to school and had learned a lot by the time the writer was 21.* Not given. All we know is that when Blake was 21 he recognised his father's wisdom more.
5. What expression is used in the article to describe someone who is easily offended? Someone who has a chip on his or her shoulder.

### **Exercise** 练习

1. Mr Jones loves to play his bagpipes. Looking disconcerted, his daughter is always around to ask him to stop making noise.
2. In the movie 'The Iron Lady' Margaret Thatcher is portrayed as a mother who puts her career above all else, and has a chip on her shoulder about being a "grocer's daughter".
3. I cringe with embarrassment when I see people throwing rubbish in our town's beauty spots.
4. Ann works hard and should have been given a promotion. It's no surprise she feels resentful towards her boss.
5. Many people think it is uncool to use a typewriter in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Glossary 词汇表

<b>to blush</b>	脸红
<b>to cringe</b>	感到难堪
<b>a dad dancing routine</b>	(比喻) 爸爸蹦迪时的舞蹈动作, 令孩子感到特别尴尬
<b>uncomfortable</b>	不舒服
<b>ridiculous</b>	荒谬
<b>annoying</b>	恼人的
<b>disconcerted</b>	受窘的
<b>humiliated</b>	感到羞耻
<b>to be shown up</b>	感到难为情
<b>a chip on (our) shoulder</b>	(比喻) 受了委屈, 心中不愤, 怨天尤人
<b>resentful</b>	不满, 抵触
<b>uncool</b>	落伍, 不时髦