

BRIBING CHILDREN TO BEHAVE

Lesson Objectives

- To explore certain aspect of human nature that cause people to bribe their children in order to influence their behavior
- To learn vocabulary about the effects of bribery on children.
- To have conversations using vocabulary about bribery and its influence on children in their later life.

Classroom Learning Activities

Activity 1

Name of Activity – Warm-up Activities

Resources Needed for Activity

- Charts 1, 2 and 3

Procedure for Activity

1. Display Charts 1, 2 and 3 on the wall
2. Place the students in Pairs or small groups

Select one or all of the following warm-up activities.

1. Define: What does "bribe" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples? Is bribery a big problem in the country where you live?

Something offered to induce another to do something: I tried to use dessert as a bribe to get the child to cooperate.

2. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
 - a. Most children are spoiled little monsters nowadays!
 - b. People should have to take a test before becoming parents.
 - c. It's perfectly all right to buy a child whatever he/she wants.
 - d. It's better to raise children in a large family, where grandparents or older siblings can help.
 - e. Spare the rod, spoil the child.

3. Dilemma: You went shopping with your son, and he has been misbehaving all day. Now he is screaming in the middle of the shopping mall because he wants to buy a toy.

- a. Would you take him to the toy store, but not buy anything?
- b. Would you take him to the toy store, and buy him something small?
- c. Would you take him to the toy store, and buy him anything he wants?
- d. Would you spank him in the middle of the shopping mall, then buy him an ice cream on the way home?
- e. Would you spank him in the middle of the shopping mall, and then drag him home?

Why?

Activity 3

Name of Activity – Read the article

Resources Needed for Activity

- Bribing Children to Behave Article

Procedure for Activity

Prepare sufficient copies to hand out to students. Emphasize the vocabulary words while reading the article with the students.

ARTICLE (for teacher)

Bribing Children to Behave

Some parents call it a treat when they promise a child dessert if she finishes her Brussels sprouts. Other parents call it a reward when they **purchase** a video game if a child does well on a test. Although harmless **terminology** may be used to describe the action, promises of desserts, toys, or favors are bribes. Many parents admit to **caving in** to their kids. They buy what previous generations simply demanded as **appropriate** behavior.

Parenting experts agree that rewards have a time and a place. But some parents have gone **overboard**. They pay their children to brush their teeth, go to sleep early, or even score a few goals at a soccer tournament! This may achieve results in the short term. But in the long term, children can become adults with an unreal **viewpoint** on how the world works. They think, "What are you going to give me?"

In part, it's the **fault** of the modern world. Past generations didn't have as many material goods to offer their kids.

Parents are now busier than ever before, too, with both mom and dad juggling careers and parenting duties.

Frazzled, overworked, and overtired, many parents admit that they don't want another power struggle. With each bribe, children demand more and more.

Of course, it's perfectly all right to reward children from time to time. The action should equal the reward, though.

It should also be used **sparingly**. Parents should instead explain that it's rewarding enough to do the thing. For example, going to bed early will **ensure** that you feel well rested tomorrow. If that doesn't work, there's nothing wrong with saying, "Because I said so!"

Underlined words in **red typeface** are the recommended vocabulary for this lesson.

Activity 3

Name of Activity – Vocabulary Review

Resources Needed for Activity

- Vocabulary Matching Chart or
- Vocabulary “Fill in the Blanks Chart” or
- Vocabulary Definitions Chart

Procedure for Activity

- Follow the instructions listed for each chart

VOCABULARY

Select one of the following vocabulary acquisition activities

1. Vocabulary match: Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B.

	A		B
1	purchase	a.	give up
2	terminology	b.	blame
3	cave in	c.	too much
4	appropriate	d.	careful
5	overboard	e.	buy
6	viewpoint	f.	tired
7	fault	g.	guarantee
8	frazzle	h.	proper
9	sparing	i.	opinion
10	ensure	j.	Word

2. Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word.

fault	viewpoint	frazzled	purchase	overboard
terminology	ensure	caving in	sparingly	appropriate

1. Other parents call it a reward when they (_____) a video game if a child does well on a test.
2. Although harmless (_____) may be used to describe the action, promises of desserts are bribes.
3. Many parents admit to (_____) to their kids.
4. They buy what previous generations simple demanded as (_____) behavior.
5. But some parents have gone (_____).
6. Children can become adults with an unreal (_____) on how the world works.
7. In part, it's the (_____) of the modern world.
8. (_____), overworked, and overtired, many parents admit that they don't want another power struggle.
9. It should also be used (_____).
10. For example, going to bed early will (_____) that you feel well rested tomorrow.

3. Define: Define each word, correctly pronounce it, explain the meaning and/or usage, and offer an example sentence to the class.

purchase	buy, acquire (something) by paying for it; buy
terminology	word, The terminology of a subject is the set of special words and expressions
cave in	give up, an instance of yielding or submitting under pressure.
appropriate	proper. suitable or proper in the circumstances
overboard	too much , go too far, go mad, go over the top
viewpoint	opinion, A position from which something is observed or considered
fault	blame, fault implies any Negligence, error, or defect of judgment
frazzle	tired, the state of being completely exhausted or worn out. "I'm tired, worn to a frazzle"
sparing	careful, moderate; economical.
ensure	guarantee, make certain of obtaining or providing something.

Activity 4

Name of Activity – Comprehension Review

Resources Needed for Activity

- True or False Chart
- Discussion Group Strips

Procedure for Activity

- Follow the instructions listed for each chart

1. True or False?: Guess (after reading the article) whether the sentence is true or false. If false, correct the sentence

1	If you give your child toys or desserts to go to bed, then you are bribing him	T/F
2	According to the article, bribes give children an unrealistic view of the world	T/F
3	Long ago, parents didn't bribe their children because they didn't have as many material goods	T/F
4	It's never okay to reward children for good behavior.	T/F
5	"Because I said so!" is never an acceptable answer.	T/F

2. Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

GROUP 1

1. As described in the article, what is a bribe?
 2. Have you ever received a bribe?
 3. What happens if parents bribe their children?
 4. According to the article, what are some reasons parents bribe their children nowadays?
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GROUP 2

1. When should parents give rewards?
 2. Why is it okay to say, "Because I said so?"
 3. Is this a problem in your country? If yes, please explain.
 4. Do children behave better or worse than 10 years ago? 20 years ago? 50 years ago? Why?
-

GROUP 3

1. Have you ever bribed someone?
 2. Will children behave better or worse in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years? Why?
 3. Were you a good or bad child? Why do you think so?
 4. Have you ever (Would you ever) buy your child an ice cream just to make him/her behave?
-

GROUP 4

1. What would you do if your child were misbehaving in the shopping mall?
 2. What is the most difficult part about being a parent? Why?
 3. What qualities does an excellent parent need? Why?
 4. Do you know someone who has been bribed?
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Activity 5

Name of Activity – Idiom and Phrasal Verb Review

Resources Needed for Activity

- Idiom and Phrasal Verb Charts

Procedure for Activity

Review and define each Idiom or Phrasal Verb. Ask students try to use each in a sentence. (Examples are provided for the Teacher)

IDIOMS

hush money

make a deal

sweeten the pot

bait the hook

peace offering

grease someone's palm

black market

golden key

slush money

money under the table

PHRASAL VERBS

buy off

take care of

bid for

stand for

take over

buy up

take up

win over

IDIOMS

hush money : a bribe to keep someone silent about something, especially to keep the receiver from exposing a scandal.

make a deal: To complete a negotiation or mutual arrangement; *He had not thought about what kind of deal he wanted to do*

sweeten the pot: add an inducement, typically in the form of money or a concession. "he is trying to sweeten the pot, offering workers a 50-cent raise"

bait the hook: lure, temptation using bargains as bait for a deal.

peace offering: a gift or service for the purpose of procuring **peace** or reconciliation

grease someone's palm: **make illegal payments to in exchange for favors or influence**

black market: Illegal free **market** which flourishes in economies where consumer goods are scarce or are heavily taxed.

golden key: a golden key can open any door.

slush money: A slush fund, also known as a black fund, is any fund or account maintained for corrupt or illegal purposes.

money under the table Unreported employment; working under the table, off the books, or **cash-in-hand**.

PHRASAL VERBS

buy off: buying your children all these things, you are in a sense buying them off

take care of: deal with (something).

bid for: means an offer of what someone will give for something

stand for: refuse to endure or tolerate

take over: the act of seizing, appropriating,

buy up : **buy** freely or extensively; to **buy** the entire available supply

take up: the acceptance of something offered,

win over: convince, influence, attract, persuade, Ex. I will take up your offer with the boss.

STUDENT HANDOUT (the article)

Bribing Children to Behave

Bribing Children to Behave Some parents call it a treat when they promise a child dessert if she finishes her Brussels sprouts. Other parents call it a reward when they **purchase** a video game if a child does well on a test. Although harmless **terminology** may be used to describe the action, promises of desserts, toys, or favors are bribes. Many parents admit to **caving in** to their kids. They buy what previous generations simple demanded as **appropriate** behavior.

Parenting experts agree that rewards have a time and a place. But some parents have gone **overboard**. They pay their children to brush their teeth, go to sleep early, or even score a few goals at a soccer tournament! This may achieve results in the short term. But in the long term, children can become adults with an unreal **viewpoint** on how the world works. They think, "What are you going to give me?"

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Parents are now busier than ever before, too, with both mom and dad juggling careers and parenting duties.

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Of course, it's perfectly all right to reward children from time to time. The action should equal the reward, though.

It should also be used **sparingly**. Parents should instead explain that it's rewarding enough to do the thing. For example, going to bed early will **ensure** that you feel well rested tomorrow. If that doesn't work, there's nothing wrong with saying, "Because I said so!"

Conversation Questions

Corruption

A Part of [Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom](#).

Related: [Police](#), [Crime](#)

- What kinds of corruption are there?
- Has corruption affected your life?
- Why do you think people are corrupt.
- Can corruption be a good thing?
- How do you reduce corruption?
- Which countries have a lot of corruption?
- What can you do about corruption in your country?
- How do you remove corrupt workers from their jobs?
- What is the largest bribe you have paid?
- Can corruption be a good thing in some societies?
- What would you do if your boss tells you that at Christmas it is usual to receive small presents from local companies?
- Would you accept a free ticket for a football match, a free drink by virtue of your position?
- What would you do if you receive a complaint from a citizen of an attempted bribery from a police officer?
- Do you think corrupt police officers are natural-born criminals?
- Do you know a corruption case?
- Do you think discipline is fair within the police?
- How are you going to prevent corruption and misconduct in the group that you command ?
- Is corruption within the police a result of low pay?
- Have you ever heard of a drug-related corruption case?
- Do you think police unions play a good role in the prevention of corruption?
- Is corruption ever justifiable?
- Have you ever received a bribe?
- Have you ever bribed someone?
- Do you know someone who has been bribed?
- Is bribery a big problem in the country where you live?
- Will you accept a dinner invitation from an important businessman of your city? (He has good connections in the council and your nephew is unemployed.)
- Would you revert to bribery if your life was at stake? If your child's or one of your family members' life was threatened?
- Is there a sum of money that might persuade you to "look the other way"?

Define: What does "bribe" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples? Is bribery a big problem in the country where you live?

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True or False

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