

UNIT 67

Parenting



I. Express Yourself



II. Vocabulary

Match the word with its correct meaning.

maternity leave

primary

workforce

paternity leave

a. original; fundamental; basic; first in importance

b. the total number of workers actively employed in or available for work in, a nation, region, plant, etc.

c. a period of absence from work granted to a mother before and after the birth of a child.

d. a period of absence from work granted to a father after or shortly before the birth of his child.

III. Conversation Practice

Practice the conversation with your teacher by doing a role play.

Toshiharu: Steve, I'm curious about how Americans raise their children here compared to my country.

Steve: What differences do you see?

Toshiharu: Well, I'm not sure. In Japan the wife has primary responsibility for taking care of the children while the husband goes to work. Is that the same in America?

Steve: Traditionally it was the same, but now more women are in the workforce so it falls on both parents to make proper arrangements. You even sometimes see the husband staying home with the kids and the wife working.

Toshiharu: That would be very rare in Japan. When the woman has a baby, does she have to quit working or can she return?

Steve: There's a law that women can leave temporarily for maternity leave. It's usually about eight weeks. There's even a law where the father can take time off for "paternity leave" but it's rare to do so.

Toshiharu: There are the same laws in Japan, however, taking paternity leave would be extremely uncommon as well. By the way, there seems to be a lot of divorce in America. What happens with the children?

Steve: Actually over 50% of marriages in the United States end in divorce. The children usually go with the mother but not always. Sometimes it's decided in court as to what's in the best interest of the children.

Toshiharu: Compared to America, divorce is not that common in Japan but the numbers have been rising.



Key Points

<u>I'm curious about...</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I'm very interested in... - I'm intrigued by... - I'd like to understand...
<u>That would be very rare in Japan.</u> <u>It's rare to do so.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That would be uncommon in Japan. - That would be unusual in Japan. - That would be strange in Japan.
<u>as to what's in the best interest of the children.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - according to what's in the best interest of... - in view of what's in the best interest of... - in consideration of what's in the best interest of...

IV. Role-play

Talk to your co-worker about how you are as a parent and what you do to enforce discipline at home.



Part 2

I. Introduction

What kind of a parent are you?



authoritarian

uninvolved

authoritative

permissive



II. Discussion

Express yourself more.

Tell your teacher one thing that children in your country do to annoy their parents.



Tell your teacher one trait that Japanese parents want their children to possess.



Tell your teacher how children in your country ask permission from their parents when they want to go out with friends.

Tell your teacher one activity that parents and their children do to pass the time.



Tell your teacher what kind of punishment schools in your country give to students who cut class.

II. Role-play

It's a Saturday and your 13-year-old son wants to go out with his friends. You want him to stay home because it's raining cats and dogs outside. However, your son still insists on going out.

Talk to him and explain why it is important for children to listen to their parents.

