

Vocabulary Practice

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| saunter | genially | compulsory | rehabilitate | unperceived |
| balk | virtuous | elusive | eminent | retribution |

A. Directions: Write the word from the box that best fits each blank.

I'll bet your folks are like mine, always telling you how good you've got it. If you want to stay up a few minutes late, your dad tells you how he didn't have any choice about bedtime when he was a boy; lights out at 8:00 was

1. compulsory because, after all, he had to get up at 4:00 in the morning to walk ten miles to school. And he had to walk fast, too: he wasn't allowed to

2. saunter My parents always speak 3. genially, but I'm not fooled by their seeming kindness. They mean business.

At least your parents aren't world-famous like my 4. eminent

parents, Cinderella and Prince Charming. The other night, all I did was eat some of my dinner with my fingers. I wasn't trying to call attention to myself; I thought my action would go 5. unperceived. But my dad caught me. I should have known that a tiny bending of the rule would be cause for

6. retribution around here. Sure enough, he had a fit. If I didn't know enough to eat with a fork, he threatened to find a school for bad-mannered children that could 7. rehabilitate me! When your parents were as good as gold at your age, you have to be 8. virtuous, too, or pay the price.

I see this with my mother all the time. Yesterday, she said, "Hop to it, Lord Lazybones! When I was a girl, I never dared 9. balk when I had work to do. I never refused to move when ordered." My pen pal in the neighboring kingdom has it rough, too. When he was four, he tried to escape from his mother at naptime, but he wasn't 10. elusive enough to get away. She plunked him in bed and told him that he had no business complaining about a one-hour nap. Yeah, I guess it's just as bad to have Sleeping Beauty for a mother.