



VOCABULARY BANK

Teenage Life

Teenage Life | Bank 1: independence, choices and responsibilities | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Quick confidence check

Before you study the topic, mark the column that best describes your confidence with each word or phrase.

Word or phrase	New to me	I recognise it	I can use it
independence	☐	☐	☐
responsibility	☐	☐	☐
make a choice	☐	☐	☐
daily routine	☐	☐	☐
manage time	☐	☐	☐
set priorities	☐	☐	☐
personal freedom	☐	☐	☐
make a decision	☐	☐	☐
earn trust	☐	☐	☐
follow rules	☐	☐	☐
be mature	☐	☐	☐
take care of yourself	☐	☐	☐

2. Vocabulary bank

Here are some useful words, adjectives, verbs and chunks that can be reused in exam answers. If you are not sure of their meaning, check online or ask your teacher.

Category	Useful vocabulary
Growing up	independence, responsibility, personal freedom, be mature, earn trust, take care of yourself
Choices	make a choice, make a decision, set priorities, think carefully, accept consequences, follow rules
Time and routine	daily routine, manage time, balance school and free time, plan ahead, meet deadlines, stay organised
Opinion chunks	Teenagers need more independence when..., It is responsible to..., One difficult choice is..., Parents may trust teenagers if..., Rules are useful because...

3. Match the meaning

Match each word or phrase with the correct meaning. Then choose four and write your own examples.

Word or phrase	Meaning
1. independence	a. decide which things are most important
2. responsibility	b. behave in a sensible and adult way
3. set priorities	c. the ability to do things without always needing help
4. earn trust	d. understand and deal with the results of your actions
5. be mature	e. a duty to do something properly or look after something
6. accept consequences	f. show through actions that people can depend on you

4. Build useful chunks

Choose useful chunks from the grid. Then write three natural sentences you could use in a speaking or writing answer.

gain independence	earn trust	be mature
make a decision	set priorities	accept consequences
manage time	daily routine	stay organised

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

5. Read in context

Read the text. The bold words are from the vocabulary bank.

Learning to Be Independent

Teenagers often want more **independence** as they get older. They may want to choose their own activities, manage their time and make more decisions.

However, independence usually comes with **responsibility**. If teenagers want adults to trust them, they need to follow rules and show that they can **be mature**.

One important skill is learning to **set priorities**. A student may need to finish homework before meeting friends or balance revision with rest.

Making mistakes is part of growing up, but teenagers also need to **accept consequences**. This helps them learn from choices and become more confident.

6. Check your understanding

Answer the questions in your own words. Use the vocabulary bank where it fits naturally.

READING CHECK

1. Why do teenagers often want more independence?

2. What does independence usually come with?

3. What might a student need to prioritise?

4. How can mistakes help teenagers grow?

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

What does 'set priorities' mean?

- A. Decide which things are most important
- B. Refuse to make any choices
- C. Forget all school work
- D. Copy someone else's routine

What is the writer's main point?

- A. Independence works best when teenagers act responsibly.
- B. Teenagers should never make decisions.
- C. Rules are always unfair.
- D. Mistakes are never useful.

7. Use the vocabulary

Task	What to do
Speaking 1	Describe one responsibility teenagers often have.
Speaking 2	Discuss this question: Should teenagers have more personal freedom?
Writing	Write a short paragraph giving advice about managing time.
Review	Return to the confidence table. Choose one item you want to improve and write a clear example sentence.

8. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

- At what age should teenagers have more independence?
- How can teenagers earn trust?
- Why is it hard to balance school and free time?
- Are rules useful for teenagers?
- What decision has helped you become more mature?

**ANSWER KEY**

Teenage Life

3. Match the meaning

1. c = the ability to do things without always needing help
2. e = a duty to do something properly or look after something
3. a = decide which things are most important
4. f = show through actions that people can depend on you
5. b = behave in a sensible and adult way
6. d = understand and deal with the results of your actions

6. Check your understanding

1. They may want to choose activities, manage time and make decisions.
2. Responsibility.
3. Homework before friends, or revision and rest.
4. They can learn from choices and become more confident.

MCQ 1: A. Decide which things are most important.

MCQ 2: A. Independence works best when teenagers act responsibly.