

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Building Deriving Meaning from Context

A. Observe the use of the underlined words in the two letters to the editor. Based on their usage in context, write the underlined words next to the definitions given below. (Write the base form of the word to match the definition.)

- E.g. snoozing In the process of sleeping or napping
1. lively Full of energy or excitement
 2. apathetic Having or showing no interest in something
 3. granted that It is true that...
 4. condone* To accept something that is wrong or offensive
 5. confess To admit a truth
 6. disturb To cause disorder or trouble
 7. (be) overwhelmed To have too much to handle
 8. outrage To make angry
 9. confront To meet face to face
 10. (be) deprived To have a lack of something
 11. encounter To run into
 12. ridiculous Unreasonable to the point of being silly

*Note: *Tolerate* is also acceptable. *Tolerate* and *condone* are similar in meaning, but *condone* implies that the person who "accepts something that is wrong or offensive" is in a position of authority, i.e. a teacher or a parent.

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B. Fill in the blank with the vocabulary words. Use each word only once. You may have to use a different tense or part of speech.

Dear Editor

It is 1. outrageous/disturbing that some teachers and parents 2. tolerate the behaviour of students 3. snoozing in class. In the short time that I have been a NET, I 4. have already encountered (already) problems with sleep 5. deprived students many times.

I refused to be 6. apathetic and decided to 7. confront a few teachers at my school about students sleeping in their classes. Some of them explained to me that their job is to teach. If students refuse to learn, it is their loss. I find this explanation 8. ridiculous ! Students are children. If students engage in inappropriate behaviour, we, as teachers, should not 9. condone it.

I also talked to students to get at the causes of the problem. Some of the senior form students said they were kept up by an 10. overwhelming amount of school work. Most of them 11. confessed that they stayed up to chat with friends or play games online. This is parental neglect! The education of a child requires collaboration between home and school. To do their share, parents need to ensure that their children are ready to learn when they get to school.

The fact that the problem of students sleeping in class occurs in Hong Kong is 12. outrageous/disturbing to me. I demand teachers and parents to work together to care for their children.

Sincerely,
Andrea Smith