


Module
4

Home alone

Unit 2 I became so bored with their orders that I wished they would leave me alone.

Reading and vocabulary

- 1 Work in pairs. Talk about daily things you do alone and the things your parents do for you.
 - cook dinner
 - go shopping
 - tidy up
 - wash clothes
- 2 Read the passage and choose the best summary. 

My "perfect holiday"

As a boy, like all other boys, I wanted to be a man. But my parents did everything for me. Actually, they managed every minute of my life. Although they loved me, I felt a bit unhappy with them. "Zheng Chenyu, do your homework!" "Practise the piano!" "Turn off the TV!" I became so bored with their orders that I wished they would leave me alone.

Well, my wish came true! Although my parents were very worried about leaving me, they had to go away on business for a few days. Now was my chance! I could have some fun at last! As soon as I got home from school the first day, I happily threw my schoolbag on the sofa and ate lots of snacks. Then I enjoyed an exciting film on TV, and after that I played computer games. I liked the games so much that I played until midnight.

The next morning I woke up late. I had to hurry to school without breakfast, but I

was still late. The teacher asked me for my homework, but I could not hand it in. With an empty stomach, I was unable to play basketball with my classmates! I felt tired and sleepy at school all day long.

When I got home, I tried to cook some rice, but I burnt it. I even dropped my father's cup when I was cooking! I found myself so bad at simple cooking tasks. I started to feel lonely. I wanted Mum and Dad to come home soon. Mum cooked such delicious food, and made sure I never forgot my homework. Dad always helped me with any difficult questions, and told funny jokes when I was unhappy. Then I realised being home alone was not always perfect.

When my parents came home, they were happy to find that I could cook and tidy up now. I told them my home alone story, and we all laughed.

- a) Zheng Chenyu found his life more difficult without his parents.
- b) Zheng Chenyu depended on his parents to prepare meals for him.
- c) Zheng Chenyu had so much homework that he did not have time to look after himself.
- d) Zheng Chenyu should learn to cook.

3 Complete the sentences. See how Zheng Chenyu's feelings changed.

- 1 Zheng Chenyu felt _____ with his parents because they did everything for him and managed every minute of his life.
- 2 After Zheng Chenyu's parents went away on business, he felt _____ because he could _____.
- 3 Zheng Chenyu felt _____ after the first night.
- 4 Zheng Chenyu felt _____ when he found he could not look after himself well.
- 5 Zheng Chenyu realised being home alone _____.

4 Complete the passage with the correct form of the words in the box.

burn cup empty order simple task

Zheng Chenyu was bored with his parents' (1) _____. He was happy when his parents went away on business, although he soon found that he could not do (2) _____ things. He forgot his homework. He went to school with a(n) (3) _____ stomach. He (4) _____ his food and broke his father's (5) _____. Zheng Chenyu had to learn to do (6) _____ like cooking and tidying up. He realised being home alone was not always perfect.

Writing

5 Write a passage about what you can do and what you cannot do when your parents are away.

- Make lists of what you can do and cannot do when your parents are away.

I can wake up on time.

I cannot make breakfast.

- Now join the sentences with *although*, *but* or *so... that*.

I can wake up on time, although I cannot make breakfast.

- Write a conclusion to the sentences.

I will miss my parents, but I think I can look after myself very well.

- Share your passage with your classmates.

Learning to learn

When you write your passage, you can start with a question. Think of your first answer to it, and think of an example. Then think of the opposite answer, and think of an example as well. Try to present both answers and then write a conclusion.