

1.

Parents' meetings may be your worst nightmare (噩梦). However, that's not always the case. The parents' meeting we had after our mid-term examinations, for instance, couldn't have been more surprising.

Sitting in our chairs next to our parents, we felt like we were on pins and needles, expecting a final outburst when they examined our grades and rankings. However, our teacher came to our rescue. He told our parents the stress we faced in our daily school lives and how hard we had worked for the college entrance examination. "No matter the score, they all studied very hard and each one of them has made progress. They deserve encouragement rather than blame," he said. When they heard these words, many parents nodded, their anger gone. Well, to be honest, we hadn't worked that hard before the meeting, but we decided we would try our best to live up to our teacher's expectations after it.

Another highlight of this parents' meeting was when our parents read our letters that we had written in advance. In our daily lives, we are so busy doing homework and preparing for exams that we hardly have time to communicate with our parents. Yet this parents' meeting gave us an opportunity to show our appreciation. In the letters, we expressed our love for them and gratitude for everything they had done for us. Many parents burst into tears after reading their children's letters.

So you see, our parents' meetings may not be as bad as we think. They could be opportunities to bring us closer to our parents.

21. What does the underlined phrase "on pins and needles" (in Para 2) mean? _____

A. Restless.

B. Proud.

C. Curious.

D. Sleepy.

22. How did many parents feel before they heard the teacher's words? _____

A. Excited.

B. Stressful.

C. Disappointed.

D. Angry.

23. Who was moved most during the meeting? _____

A. Students.

B. Parents.

C. Our teacher.

D. Our headmaster.

24. Which of the following statements is TRUE? _____

A. The parents will try to live up to the teacher's expectations.

B. The parent meeting brought the teacher and our parents closer.

C. The parent meeting was held after the college entrance examination.

D. The teacher showed great concern and understanding for the students.

2.

NOT all memories are sweet. Some people spend all their lives trying to forget bad experiences. Violence and traffic accidents can leave people with terrible physical and emotional scars. Often they relive these experiences in nightmares.

Now American researchers think they are close to developing a pill, which will help people forget bad memories. The pill is designed to be taken immediately after a frightening experience. They hope it might reduce, or possibly erase (抹去), the effect of painful memories.

In November, experts tested a drug on people in the US and France. The drug stops the body releasing chemicals that fix memories in the brain. So far the research has suggested that only the emotional effects of memories may be reduced, not that the memories are erased.

The research has caused a great deal of argument. Some think it is a bad idea, while others support it.

Supporters say it could lead to pills that prevent or treat soldiers' troubling memories after war. They say that there are many people who suffer from terrible memories.

"Some memories can ruin people's lives. They come back to you when you don't want to have them in a daydream or nightmare. They usually come with very painful emotions," said Roger Pitman, a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. "This could relieve a lot of that suffering."

But those who are against the research say that changing memories is very dangerous because memories give us our identity (特质). They also help us all avoid the mistakes of past.

"All of us can think of bad events in our lives that were horrible at the time but make us who we are. I'm not sure we want to wipe those memories out," said Rebecca