

1.

My father had returned from his business visit to London when I came in, rather late, to supper. I could tell at once that he and my mother had been discussing something. In that half-playful, half-serious way I knew so well, he said, "How would you like to go to Eton?"

"You bet," I cried quickly catching the joke. Everyone knew it was the most expensive, the most famous of schools. You had to be entered at birth, if not before. Besides, even at 12 or 13, I understood my father. He disliked any form of showing off. He always knew his proper station in life, which was in the middle of the middle class, our house was medium-sized; he had avoided joining Royal Liverpool Golf Club and went to a smaller one instead; though once he had got a second-hand Rolls-Royce at a remarkably low price, he felt embarrassed driving it, and quickly changed it for an Austin 1100.

This could only be his happy way of telling me that the whole boarding school idea was to be given up. Alas! I should also have remembered that he had a liking for being different from everyone else, if it did not conflict with his fear of drawing attention to himself.

It seemed that he had happened to be talking to Graham Brown of the London office, a very nice fellow, and Graham had a friend who had just entered his boy at the school, and while he was in that part of the world he thought he had better phone them. I remember my hands shaking with the puzzlement of my feelings. There was excitement, at the heart of great sadness.

"Oh, he doesn't want to go away," said my mother, "You shouldn't go on like this." "It's up to him," said my father. "He can make up his own mind."

21. The house the writer's family lived in was _____.

- A. the best they could afford
- B. rather small
- C. for showing off
- D. right for their social position

22. His father sold his Rolls-Royce because _____.

- A. it was too cheap
- B. it was too old to work well
- C. it was too expensive to possess
- D. it made him feel uneasy

23. What was the writer's reaction to the idea of going to Eton?

- A. He had mixed feelings.
- B. He didn't believe it.
- C. He was delighted.
- D. He was very unhappy.

24. We can know from the passage that _____.

- A. Children who can go to Eton are very famous.
- B. Children can go to Eton if they will.
- C. It is very difficult for a child to get admitted by Eton.
- D. Children don't have the right to decide whether they will go to Eton.

2.

You wake up in the morning, the day is beautiful and the plans for the day are what you have been looking forward to for a long time. Then the telephone rings, you say hello, and the drama starts. The person on the other end has a sad tone in his voice as he starts to tell you how terrible his morning is and that there is nothing to look forward to. You are still in a wonderful mood? Impossible!

Communicating with negative people can wash out your happiness. It may not change what you think, but communicating long enough with them will make you feel sad for a moment or a long time.

Life brings ups and downs, but some people are stuck in the wrong idea that life has no happiness to offer. They only feel glad when they make others feel bad. No wonder they can hardly win others' pity or respect.

When you communicate with positive people, your spirit stays happy and therefore more positive things are attracted. When the knife of a negative person is put in you, you feel the heavy feeling that brings you down.

Sometimes we have no choice but to communicate with negative people. This could be a co-worker, or relative. In this case, say what needs to be said as little as possible. Sometimes it feels good to let out your anger back to the negative person, but all this does is to lower you to that same negative level and they won't feel ashamed of themselves about that.

Negativity often affects happiness without even being realized. The negative words of another at the start of the day can run after you throughout the rest of your day, which makes you feel bad and takes your happiness away. Life is too short to feel negative. Stay positive and avoid negativity as much as possible.

25. The purpose of the first paragraph is to _____.