VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

D. D. Sim
B. Laufer-Dvorkin
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UNIT 1 The human family

Read the text below, using a dictionary where necessary. When you have finished, go on to do the exercises.

When we survey all known human societies, we find everywhere some form of the family, some set of permanent arrangements by which males assist females in caring for children while they are young. The distinctively human aspect of the enterprise lies not in the protection the male affords the females and the young — this we share with the primates. Nor does it lie in the lordly possessiveness of the male over females for whose favours he contends with other males — this too we share with the primates. Its distinctiveness lies instead in the nurturing behavior of the male, who among human beings everywhere helps provide food for women and children.

Among our structurally closest analogues — the primates — the male does not feed the female. He may fight to protect her or to possess her, but he does not nurture her. She has to fend for herself.

Somewhere at the dawn of human history, some social invention was made under which males started nurturing females and their young. In every known human society, everywhere in the world, the young male learns that when he grows up one of the things which he must do in order to be a full member of society is to provide food for some female and her young. Even in very simple societies, a large number of men may escape the burden of feeding females and young by entering monasteries — and feeding each other — or by entering some profession that their society will classify as giving them a right to be fed, like the Army, and the Navy, or the Buddhist orders of Burma. But in spite of such exceptions, every known human society rests firmly on the learned nurturing behavior of men.

This nurturing behavior, this fending for females and children instead of leaving them to fend for themselves, as the primates do, may take many different forms. But the core remains. Man, the heir of tradition, provides for women and children. We have no indication that man the animal, man unpatterned by social learning, would do anything of the sort.

From M. Mead, Male and Female (by permission of Victor Gollancz Ltd)

Stage 1

Exercise 1

The left-hand column on the next page contains 11 words and phrases from the text (line references are given in brackets). For each word or phrase in this column there is a word or phrase of similar meaning in the right-hand column. Match the pairs by writing each word from the left-hand column in the appropriate space. The first pair has been done for you.
Exercise 2

Look at each of the following subjects and write down in the infinitive form all the verbs in the text which deal with the subject. The first verb in number 1 has been done as an example.

1 The behaviour of the human male towards the female and her children
   a provide  
   b  
   c  
   d  
   e  
   f  

2 Exceptional forms of male human behaviour
   a  
   b  

3 The characteristics that the human male shares with animals
   a  
   b  

Exercise 3

The following nouns are taken from the text (line references are given in brackets). They relate to the subject The attitude of the male towards the female and the children as a purely social phenomenon. Match each noun with a suitable adjective or adjective + adverb taken from the list on page 6. The first pair is done as an example.
6 Unit 1/Stage 2

<table>
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<tr>
<td>1 <em>permanent</em></td>
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Adjectives and adjectives with adverbs
social; permanent; learned; nurturing; distinctively human

Stage 2

Exercise 1

The italicised words in sentences 1–6 below can all have several different meanings. The sentences below the key sentences – A, B and C – each illustrate one of these meanings. In each case, decide which of A, B or C is closest in meaning to the italicised word as it is used in the sentence and circle the appropriate letter. Use a dictionary to find out the other meanings of the words. Numbers in brackets give the lines in the text where the italicised words can be found.

1 One of the differences between man and animal *lies* in the possession of language. (3)
   A Johnny often *lies* to his older brother.
   B After lunch many people *lie* down for a rest.
   C Beauty *lies* in the eye of the beholder.

2 The human male has learnt to *afford* his protection to the female. (3)
   A We can’t *afford* to spend so much money.
   B The trees *afford* a pleasant shade.

3 Men and animals *share* many physical characteristics. (4)
   A The mother *shared* the sweets among her children.
   B Colleagues often have to *share* an office with each other.
   C Each employee was given a *share* in the company.

4 Already at the *dawn* of human history men overcame their fear of animals. (11)
   A The new President said that we were at the *dawn* of a new prosperity.
   B In some countries people start work at *dawn*.
   C The solution to the problem began to *dawn* on him.

5 Social laws *rest* on the learned behaviour of the members of society. (18)
   A Parents with very young children find it hard to *rest* in the early morning.
   B Two students failed the exam, but the *rest* passed it.
   C His thesis *rested* on two basic assumptions.

6 Male animals *contend* with each other for their females. (5)
   A Ten candidates *contended* for the first prize.
   B The scholar *contended* that his thesis was based on careful experiment.
Exercise 2

The following pairs of words are often confused. If necessary, look up each word in a dictionary. Then practise them by completing the sentences by putting one of the words given in brackets in each blank.

possession/possiveness  primate/primary
content/content        complex/complicated (verb)
nurture/nature

1 The information in my _________ is very important to our project. (possession, possessiveness)
2 I'm _________ with your ideas on the proposal. (content, content)
3 Scientists who believe in heredity attribute intelligence to _____________.
   while the behaviourists claim that ___________ is all-important in the
   development of intelligence. (nurture, nature)
4 Stress is the ____________, cause of heart attacks. (primate, primary)
5 The negotiations were ____________ by new political developments.
   (complicated, complex)

Exercise 3

Rearrange each of the following groups of words and phrases in such a way that they form a sentence. Words and phrases similar to those used in the text have references in brackets. You will sometimes need to add prepositions or conjunctions. The first sentence is done as an example.

1 assist (2); every human society (1); men (15); women (7); caring for children (2)
   In every human society men assist women in caring for children.

2 often; people; wrong reasons; each other; contend (5)

3 afford the female (4); both, their protection (3); the animal male (5); the human male (5)

4 characteristic; providing food (7); a distinctively human (7); is

5 should; independent people; themselves (21); fend (20); be able

6 cannot escape (15); a full member (14); various, society (14); moral responsibilities

Stage 3

Exercise 1

Complete the following passage with words from the text. Each blank space represents one missing word. You may have to change the form of the word.
8 Unit 1/Stage 3

The difference between human society and animal society is not in the male or the female, or the male shows towards the female, but in the fact that the human male food for the family. While both human and animal females are for by males, it is only the human female who does not have to herself.

This behaviour was learned early in human history when man learned that he had to a female and her children if he wanted to become of his society. Therefore, men only exceptionally the responsibility of feeding females by a profession which will give them a right to be fed.

Every known society today the nurturing behaviour of men. Although this behaviour may take different forms, the is the same – man provides for women and children.

Exercise 2

Answer briefly the following comprehension questions. If you wish, you may use the key phrases given.

1 What is characteristic of most forms of family life?
permanent arrangement; assist females; nurturing the family

2 What do human males share with animals?
competition; protection; possessiveness

3 How can a man avoid nurturing a female and her children?
escape the burden; joining a profession

4 How was male nurturing behaviour created?
clear indication; social invention; tradition