

# 17 Suicide by Parent Bullying

South Korea Teachers Protest Against Parent Bullying After Recent Suicide Case

LIVE ESL – APIBECI

WORLD NEWS

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## Pre – Test

Identify the meaning of the underlined words in each sentence. Choose from the choices below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 The family lives in an **enormous** house.  
a. huge; big                      b. tiny
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 The outcome of the election **hinges on** how the candidates perform in the debate.  
a. depends on                      b. basis
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Laws exist to stop companies **exploiting** their employees.  
a. abusing                      b. looking after
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4 They have actually announced a whole range of new **measures** to try and protect teachers better.  
a. difference                      b. plan; system
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5 He could not **restrain** the dog from attacking.  
a. stop; prevent                      b. lose
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6 The stalker was completely **fixated** on the actress.  
a. obsessed                      b. aloof
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7 Her husband's **overbearing** manner made her miserable.  
a. meek                      b. controlling; pushy
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8 The workers are **going on strike**.  
a. walk out of job in protest                      b. support

## 01

## Reading

Thousands of teachers are **going on strike** and attending a **mass rally** to honor colleagues who have taken their own lives. School staff are demanding better protection against bullying by the parents of pupils after a young teacher died by suicide in July. Let's go live now to Seoul, where our correspondent Jean McKenzie is. Jean, it looks like you are at a rally. What is happening in your area?

"Yes, this is now the seventh week that teachers here in Seoul have been protesting, well across South Korea. They've been coming here to protest every single weekend and it has **culminated** today. In this national strike of teachers at the weekend, we saw hundreds, thousands of teachers take to the streets and this all started with the death of a young teacher, a 23-year-old back in July. The teacher died by suicide and it emerged after her death that she had been suffering with pressure from work but that she had also been dealing with complaints from parents and what this did here has opened this Pandora's box, really where teachers all across the country have started sharing their own stories about how they are **harassed** by parents here who call them all hours of the day on their mobile phones and at weekends complaining. Essentially, they say these are overbearing parents who are just completely **fixated** on their children's success at school. Some of these complaints are serious that teachers are having to deal with. The teachers say that they can be accused of child abuse if they try to **restrain** violent children or if they try to send children out of the class and they can be accused of emotional abuse if they just tell children off. They say that it reached the point where they don't even feel safe to teach or discipline their children."

You just mentioned that, there have been a number of these rallies taking place. This is a larger one. Is there any sign that these teachers are being listened to, the government schools are listening to them?

"The government is listening and it has said, we hear your cries. They have actually announced a whole range of new **measures** to try and protect teachers better. They brought in new guidelines just a couple of days ago which in theory, give teachers more control to discipline their students. But the teachers here, they want a more **systemic reform**, they want the government to look at this child welfare act here, which they say parents are **exploiting** in order to get rid of the teachers they don't like. This is the act which says the teachers who are accused of child abuse can be removed from their post. But this brings into a much deeper **societal issue** here. South Korea is a hyper competitive society and so much here **hinges on** academic success so the parents here feel this **enormous** pressure that their children have to do well at school and that pressure filters down to the children and clearly were learning to the teachers as well. There are many here who say that this isn't just about fixing this problem in classrooms, that people really hear the government and the policy makers should be looking at reforming careers' entire approach to education."

# 02

## Activity

**A1 + A2 | Decipher & Create** *Unlock the words using the corresponding letters and numbers, then create a sentence using the words formed. Write your answers on the blank provided beside each number.*

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

**1**   

5    14    15    18    13    15    21    19

• *adjective*  
big; huge

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**2**   

6    9    20    9    1    20    5    4

• *verb*  
obsessed with; captivated

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**3**   

18    5    19    20    18    1    9    14

• *verb*  
prevent (someone or something) from doing something; keep under control or within limits.

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**4**   

5    24    16    12    15    9    20    9    14    7

• *verb*  
use (a situation or person) in an unfair or selfish way.

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**5**   

8    1    18    1    19    19    5    4

• *verb*  
to disturb or bother persistently; torment, as with troubles or cares;

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## 03

## Speak Up

You are welcome to authentically share your thoughts as you go through the following questions.

1

Would you ever consider taking a teaching profession?

4

In the Philippines, teachers are considered children's second parents, how about in your country?

2

If you are a teacher and you felt being bullied by student's parents, what will you do?

5

If you could give simple advice for parents and teachers, what would it be?

3


When you were in elementary or high school, what were your unforgettable experiences with your teachers?



17 OCTOBER  
@2023

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Experiences  
are the best  
teachers.

The Creative Box: Draw something, write something, do anything to this box – let yourself be free with the box. 

## KEY ANSWERS

1 enormous – 2 fixiated – 3 restrain – 4 exploiting – 5 harassed

LESSON SUMMARY

**READING + LISTENING + SPEAKING**

**1HR**

ISSUE 12: SUICIDE BY PARENT BULLYING:  
SOUTH KOREA TEACHERS PROTEST  
AGAINST PARENT BULLYING  
AFTER RECENT SUICIDE CASE  
PUBLISHED ON 17 OCT 2023



ASSESSMENT PROFICIENCY INFORMATION

**STUDENT**

**SCORE**

**DATE**



SCAN FOR EDUCARE.

