

Competitiveness

Task: Competitiveness and Children

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 11.

You are going to hear a talk about **competitiveness and children**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

There is no doubt that we live in a competitive world. That being said, have you ever given a thought to how competitiveness can affect children? There are certainly two sides of the sword when it comes to this.

When we are analyzing the benefits that competition is able to bring for children, something that can be observed is that competition is able to incorporate play. Therefore, it is great for teaching social skills and integration. Apart from that, this can be **incredibly exciting** for children. Therefore, **the best possible way** of learning is when learning happens with excitement and competition, pushing the child to always do their best. In addition to the obvious advantages, a variety of educational specialists have commented on the **importance of having competition** since it promotes cooperation. **Not only is working with others to achieve a common goal an essential skill to have**, but also it is good for aspects of sport and life, as well as allows the child to learn patterns of social cooperation without passing critical limits of aggression. There are other things apart from the prior that we can see are good for children. **Namely**, the fact that competitiveness can develop emotional control. **Luckily enough**, this motivates children to think about their behaviour when encountered with an emotionally intense situation and develop strong emotional intelligence. So, they can feel in control of their emotions and are more likely to work hard, while taking on a new challenge. This escalates the learning process. Another benefit to consider is that it also inspires **creativity extremely well**. It is **jaw-dropping** to see how children evolve the ability **to think out of the box** when it is required so that they can win a game. **In regards to** this, it helps creativity, problem solving and stimulates children to question their status quo, as well as try new things.

In spite of all the good that can be collected from competitiveness, **let's not forget** that not everything is perfect. For instance, it **may have been noted** that competition can be part of the reason for possessing hostility and aggression. **What's more**, some parents could very well be the reason that they set in motion the child's behaviour. **To put it briefly**, they cover their need for satisfaction and success. **On the other side of the coin**, some children are unable to handle this level of competitiveness. This could **perfectly well** lead to a child dropping out of certain activities, not to mention not feeling either competent or motivated. **Given that**, they may just search for other activities instead. **Last but certainly not least**, when it comes to sports teams there is always one team that wins while another one fails. **A**



confused child might have their ego deflated, especially when measured only on the competition result. Needless to say, if parents had realized the mistake of pressuring them to be too competitive, it would be a different mindset for their child in today's world.

Taking everything into consideration, even though we can see there are positive aspects to competitiveness, people shouldn't jump to the conclusion that it is always a good thing. Parents need to be careful that by being competitive, it doesn't trigger injuries, rising intensity, not to mention that the child is unprepared physically for the given situation. It is absolutely no good if the child is competing too much, especially physically speaking, and their body is still growing. Having said that, don't you feel that finding something that allows the child to feel challenged, just out of reach as well as being exciting, helps children grow strengths and weaknesses while inspiring them to do their best?

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the pros and cons of having a competitive child.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the pros and cons of having a competitive child. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triggers injuries; rising intensity ; child is unprepared physically; competing too much and body is growing
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition incorporates play; great for teaching social skills and integration • Exciting; learning happens best with excitement and competition, pushing to always do their best • Competition promotes cooperation; working with others to achieve a common goal is an essential skill to have, for sport and life; learn patterns of social cooperation without passing limits of aggression. • Develops Emotional Control; motivates children to think about their behaviour when encountered with an emotionally intense situation and develop strong emotional intelligence; feel in control of emotions, more likely to work hard and take on a new challenge • Inspires creativity; helps creativity, problem solving, question their status quo and try new things
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition possesses hostility and aggression • Parents set in motion the child's behaviour; cover their need for satisfaction, success • Competing may lead to dropping out; not feeling competent and lose motivation; search for other activities • Ego deflating; one team win and another fails, measured on competition result

Marks: +_ / +10

Grammar Used in the listening task:

- **inversions: not only....but**
- **compound adjectives: jaw-dropping / well-to-do**
- **modifiers: absolutely / extremely / incredibly / totally**
- **Past participle as adjective: the most wanted player / a written document / a confused girl**
- **superlative + postmodifier + noun: best possible location / highest possible level**
- **adverb + enough: surprisingly enough / sadly enough / luckily enough**
- **adverb + adverb: perfectly well / extremely well / relatively quickly**
- **Mix Conditional: If society had realized this mistake earlier, it would be a different world today.**
- **Perfect Infinitive**