



## Teenage life

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Bella

What do you know about us freshmen from other countries?

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## The freshman challenge

What do you want to know from the text?



Adam



*What's the main idea of each paragraph?*

**Skim the text and complete the form.**

| Paragraph   | Main idea | How do you know? |
|-------------|-----------|------------------|
| Paragraph 1 |           |                  |
| Paragraph 2 |           |                  |
| Paragraph 3 |           |                  |
| Paragraph 4 |           |                  |

# How do you know?

| Paragraph   | Main idea  |
|-------------|--|
| Paragraph 1 | Senior high school is a challenge.   |
| Paragraph 2 | Adam had to think very carefully about taking suitable courses.                                |
| Paragraph 3 | Adam had to choose extra-curricular activities.  |
| Paragraph 4 | Adam will have to study harder in the future and get used to being responsible for a lot more. |

## THE FRESHMAN CHALLENGE

Hi! My name is Adam and I'm a freshman at senior high school. Going from junior high school to senior high school is a really big challenge. The first week was a little confusing.

topic sentence

linking words

key phrases

I had to think very carefully about which courses I wanted to take. The school adviser helped me choose the suitable ones: maths, English, chemistry, world history, and Chinese. I know that Chinese is a very difficult language, but I hope to be **fluent** when I **graduate**. My adviser **recommended** that I should sign up for advanced **literature** because I like English and I'm good at it.

I had to choose extra-curricular activities. I tried to join the school football team, but the coach told me that I didn't play well enough. **Obviously**, I was unhappy, but I won't **quit**. I'll find a way to improve on my own so that I can make the team next year. I joined a volunteer club instead. Every Wednesday, we work at a soup kitchen and hand out food to homeless people in the community.

I know I'll have to study harder as a senior high school student and get used to being **responsible** for a lot more. I'm a bit worried about keeping up with the other students in my advanced course, and it'll be quite difficult to get used to all the homework. Still, I'm happy to be here. Studying hard isn't always fun, but I'll be well prepared for university or whatever else comes in the future.



## Helpful Tips

# Reading skill: Skimming

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You can quickly find **main ideas** and **the whole structure** by **first taking a quick look** at the **title**, **picture(s)**, **key words and phrases**, and **topic sentences**.

*share your answers to the  
questions you raised*





# *share your answers to the questions you raised*

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| What: challenge                  | How: feeling  | How: solution                                     |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| difficult subjects               | difficult <b>but</b> hopeful                              | school adviser; recommended;<br>sign up for       |
| make the school<br>football team | unhappy <b>but</b><br>determined                          | improve himself;<br>joined ... instead            |
| study                            | worried and stressed<br><b>but</b> happy and<br>confident | study harder; be responsible;<br>be well prepared |

# How does Adam organize every challenge?

Hi! My name is Adam and I'm a freshman at senior high school. Going from junior high school to senior high school is a really big challenge. The first week was a little confusing.

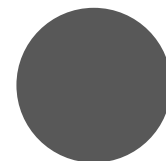
First, I had to think very carefully about which courses I wanted to take. The school adviser helped me choose the suitable ones: maths, English, chemistry, world history, and Chinese. I know that Chinese is a very **difficult** language, but I **hope** to be **fluent** when I **graduate**. My adviser **recommended** that I should sign up for advanced **literature** because I like English and I'm good at it.

I had to choose extra-curricular activities, too. I tried to join the school football team, but the coach told me that I didn't play well enough. **Obviously**, I was **unhappy**, but **I won't quit**. I'll find a way to improve on my own so that I can make the team next year. I joined a volunteer club instead. Every Wednesday, we work at a soup kitchen and hand out food to homeless people in the community.

I know I'll have to study harder as a senior high school student and get used to being **responsible** for a lot more. I'm a bit **worried** about keeping up with the other students in my advanced course, and it'll be quite **difficult** to get used to all the homework. Still, I'm **happy** to be here. Studying hard isn't always fun, but I'll be well prepared for university or whatever else comes in the future.

specific  
example

clear  
feelings



Which paragraph/sentence/phrase/word do you like most?  
Why?

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| <i>What's your favorite part?</i> | <i>Why do you like it?</i> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                   |                            |

Which paragraph/sentence/phrase word do you like most?

I know ... is difficult, but I hope to be fluent ...

..., but I won't quit. I'll find a way to improve ...

Still, I'm happy to be here.

Contrast

...isn't always fun, but I'll be well prepared for...

His positive attitude towards challenges in senior high school



How do you think Adam's story can help **you** in your future senior high school life?



ATTITUDE  
IS  
EVERYTHING

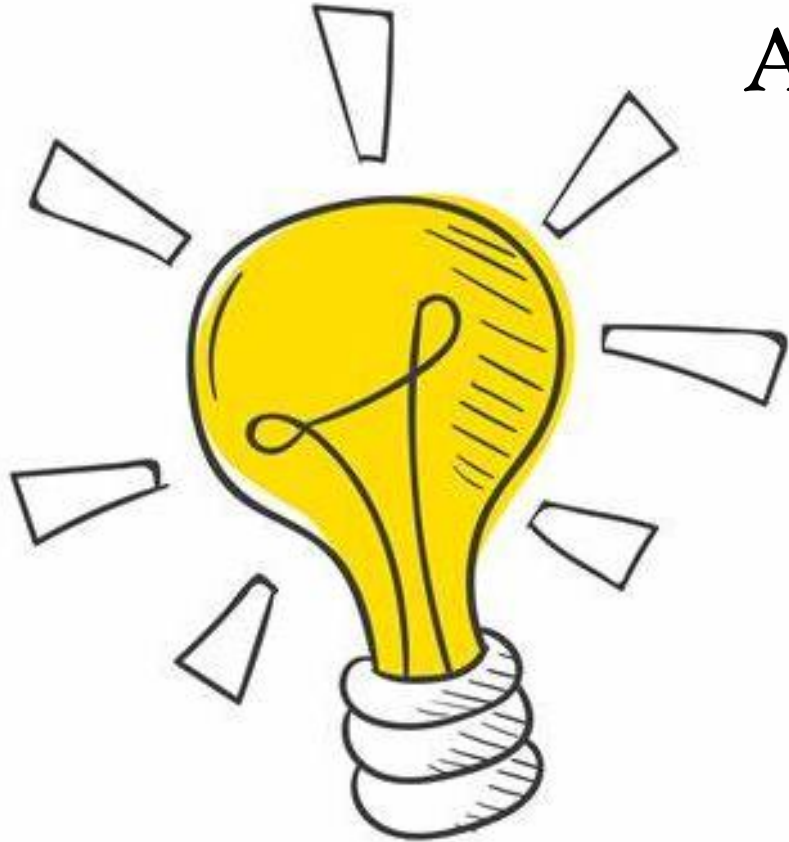
- ◆ Life in senior high school is full of **challenges**.
- ◆ We should explore and experience it in a **positive** way to get prepared for whatever comes in our future.

# Think

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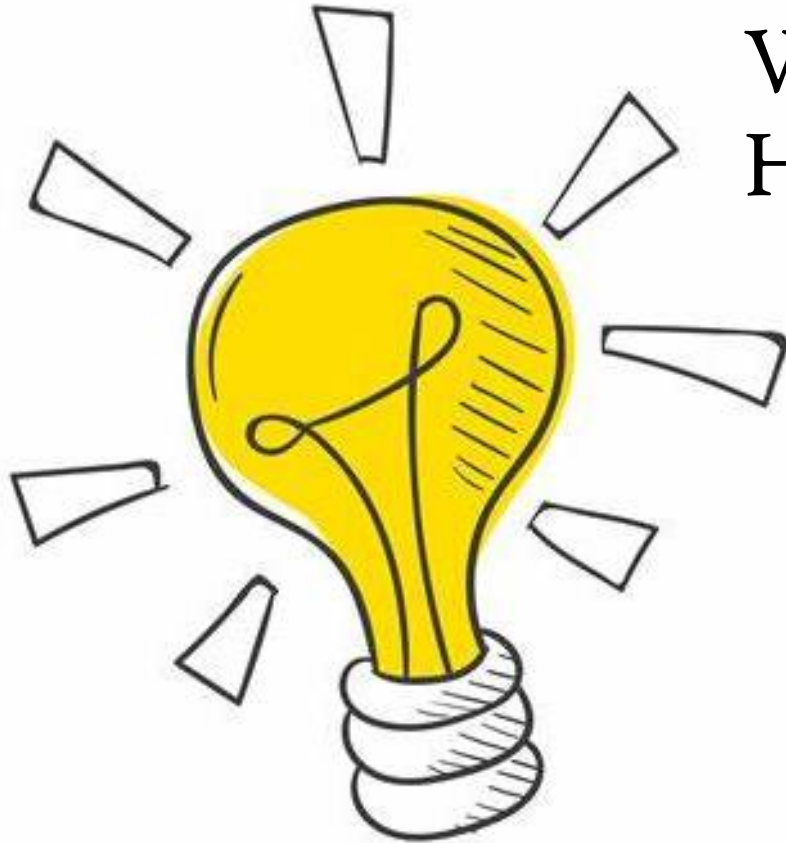
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What are some differences between Adam's school life and your school life?



# Discussion

Do you face the same challenges as Adam?  
What other challenges are you facing?  
How do you deal with them?



Like Adam, I also have to...

Unlike Adam, I don't have to...

My solution to this challenge is to...

# Assignment

Please write a short passage to share your own challenges as a freshman at senior high school. And add your attitude towards the challenges as a conclusion. **You're expected to use the words and expressions in the passage.**

*Hi! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm a freshman at XXXX School. Going from junior high school to senior high school is a really big challenge. The first week was \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Requirements:**

**logical structure:** linking words; topic sentence

**detailed description:** examples for specific challenge and solution

**clear feelings:** feeling words



## One Possible Version

Hi, my name is Jane and I'm a freshman at Quzhou No.2 High School in Zhejiang Province. Going from junior high school to senior high school is a really big challenge. The first week was **difficult to adapt but exciting**.

First, I **had to** adjust myself to the routine here, which was totally different from that in the junior high school. The time of classes has significantly changed from 5 hours to nearly 9 hours and at first the 4 extra hours of learning nearly **freaked me out**. But as time went by I gradually **got used to** the new schedule and really devoted myself to **studying harder**. Another big shift lay in the increased time of autonomous learning. At the beginning it **was difficult** to have my time well-organized. However, our head teacher **recommended** us that we should arrange our schedules in advance by writing a to-do list everyday, which truly helped me **keep up with** the new routine in senior high school.

Also, every day I **had to** face mountainous homework assigned by different teachers and some of them were exactly hard to complete. The increase in variety of the class and its complexity really made me **at a loss**. Therefore, piles of assignment usually took up most of my time, leaving me with little time to review and preview lessons. Later, under the guidance of teachers, I redesigned my learning methods--- I would always review lessons learned before doing homework and it **obviously** turned out to be an effective method as my understanding of the knowledge and efficiency greatly improved.

Furthermore, I had to get familiar with new classmates and teachers. Though it took much effort and time, that still gave me a hint of excitement. What further excited me was that I was selected to be the monitor of the class and I know it means I must be responsible for all classmates and be obliged to give them a hand whenever they need help.

The first week is not that easy and pleasant, but I know I have to embrace all the challenges. I'm sure I will get better prepared for my new journey and that nothing will ever pull me down if I face difficulties positively.

