
With Twin Principals, Students See Double

Absent without a good reason? Chewing gum in class? Not doing homework? If you're a student at Claremont Middle School in Oakland, California, that kind of misbehavior* is not a good idea. With two principals constantly* checking up on students, there's just nowhere to hide—especially since* the principals are twins
5 who love working together as a team.

Last summer, the district* chose Ron and Reggie Richardson to work as co-principals instead of having just one principal and an assistant principal. The two brothers, who are almost identical* in
10 appearance, get a lot of attention when they walk around together in their matching suits and ties. They both have a natural love of education as well as* a strong work ethic,* which begins with arriving at school at seven o'clock every morning to say hello to their students.



“These become our children,” Reggie explains. “We know their names, their likes
15 and dislikes. We want them to feel safe and supported. If they don't, they'll have a hard time succeeding academically.” He and his brother also strongly believe in the importance of their teamwork. “The students see us together, working well and respecting each other,” says Ron. “Hopefully, it sets a standard for the whole school.”

20 Students, parents and teachers all recognize the change that the twin principals have made to their school. “The Richardsons have been excellent,” says Paul Kagiwada, whose son is in the seventh grade at Claremont. “There's a huge difference in the school. It's cleaner, nicer, and quieter. It's the opposite of last year.” Juan Hernandez, an eighth grade student, adds, “It's clear that the Richardsons are not just doing this
25 to earn a salary. They really care about us, and I know that I can trust them to do what's best for me.”

Ron and Reggie say they are just continuing their family tradition. Their mother was a teacher for many years, and their grandmother was an elementary school principal. As children, the twins were always the leaders of neighborhood games

30 and activities, and they made sure to always include the less popular children. They also volunteered at elementary schools in their area, tutoring children who were weak at school.

“Our basic belief is that every child must be given the chance to succeed,” says Ron, “and it’s wonderful to be working together towards the same goal.”

*misbehavior = התנהגות רעה

*constantly = כל הזמן

*since = מכיוון

*district = מחוז

*identical = זהים

*as well as = ובנוסף

*ethic = ערך

*supported = נתמכים

Questions About the Text

A. Who ... (You may use the same answer more than once.)

- 1) started a family tradition in education? _____
- 2) can learn from seeing the way the twin principals work? _____
- 3) look almost the same? _____
- 4) trusts the Richardsons? _____
- 5) can't hide from the Richardsons? _____
- 6) got help from the Richardsons *before* they started working in education?

B. True or false? Copy a sentence or phrase from the text which proves your answer.

- ___ 1) Students at Claremont Middle School are allowed to chew gum in class.
Proof: _____
- ___ 2) Claremont Middle School has always had co-principals.
Proof: _____
- ___ 3) Ron and Reggie Richardson like to wear formal clothing to work.
Proof: _____
- ___ 4) Ron and Reggie Richardson start working at different hours so that there is always a principal at the school.
Proof: _____

___ 5) The Richardsons believe that knowing different things about their students helps their students get better grades.

Proof: _____

___ 6) Paul Kagiwada thinks that the Richardsons are doing a better job than the previous* principal.

Proof: _____

___ 7) According to Juan Hernandez, the Richardsons care more about the money that they earn than about the students.

Proof: _____

___ 8) When they were young, Ron and Reggie Richardson were only interested in games.

Proof: _____

___ 9) Ron and Reggie have identical teaching beliefs and goals.

Proof: _____

*previous = קודם

Vocabulary Practice

C. Match the words to their synonyms.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| ___ 1) how someone or something looks | a) volunteer |
| ___ 2) money that you earn for working | b) absent |
| ___ 3) something a family/ community has done for many years | c) appearance |
| ___ 4) do a job without pay | d) hide |
| ___ 5) lacking* strength | e) tradition |
| ___ 6) a matching set of jacket and pants or jacket and skirt | f) weak |
| ___ 7) stay in a place where people can't easily find you | g) salary |
| ___ 8) not there, not present | h) suit |

*lacking = חסר (ליו)

D. Fill in the sentences using the words in the box.

- 1) A person's most _____ needs include air, water, and food.
- 2) Why are you wearing a purple shirt with an orange and green skirt? The colors don't _____ at all!
- 3) I can't believe it! I _____ her with my secret, and she told it to everyone in the class.
- 4) Ariella is interested in studying _____ graphic design and photography but she's not sure if she'll have the time to study two different subjects.
- 5) A good _____ is someone who understands others and tries to help every person reach his or her full potential.
- 6) Eliran is their first grandchild, so they give him lots of _____.
- 7) If you want to stay healthy, you should engage* in physical _____ such as walking at least three times a week.
- 8) It's _____ to want a vacation after a whole year of hard work at school.
- 9) Shahir _____ sick children at a hospital so that they will not be too far behind when they return to school.
- 10) One step _____ achieving your goal of knowing English well is to start reading books that are written in English every day.

*to engage = להתעסק

leader – natural – towards – match – activities –
both – tutors – basic – attention – trusted

Language Tips and Practice

בשורה 4 של הטקסט בעמוד 32 כתוב: "... there's **just** nowhere to hide ..."

בשורות 24–25 כתוב:

"It's clear that the Richardsons are not **just** doing this to earn a salary."

בשורה 27 כתוב:

"Ron and Reggie say they are **just** continuing their family tradition."

המילה **just** היא מילה בסיסית מאוד באנגלית, אבל יש לה משמעויות כה רבות ושימושים שונים שהיא יכולה די לבלבל. להלן שונה כיס שונות לשימוש במילה **just**:

1. במשמעות של: רק/בלבד, לדוגמא:

It's amazing that he can speak three languages. He's **just** four years old!

או: The Richardsons are not doing this **just** to earn a salary.

2. כביטוי זמן בהווה מושלם (Present Perfect), במשמעות של: ממש לאחרונה.

We've **just** arrived at the airport.

3. במשמעות של: בדיוק, לרגע: או: You're **just** on time.

This is **just** what I thought.

4. במשמעות של: עכשיו/בדיוק עכשיו/עוד מעט, לדוגמא:

We're **just** about to leave.

5. במשמעות של: באותו מידה/בדיוק, כשמשווים בין שניים בתוספת המילה

I'm **just** as busy as you are.

6. במשמעות של: בקושי, לדוגמא:

We had **just** enough money to pay for the tickets.

7. להמעיט חשיבות לנאמר, במשמעות של: סתם/פשוט, לדוגמא:

או: I **just** didn't know what to do.

Ron and Reggie are **just** continuing a tradition.

8. במשמעות של: ממש, לדוגמא: Your party was **just** amazing!

E. The word *just* appears in each of the sentences below. Write what you think it means in Hebrew or English.

- 1) I'm **just** too tired to go shopping now. _____
- 2) Look! That store is selling sunglasses for **just** twenty-five shekels!

- 3) Lior is **just** finishing his test now. _____
- 4) I've **just** finished a three-week computer course. _____
- 5) Your sweater is **just** beautiful! Where did you get it? _____
- 6) That's a great answer—**just** the answer I wanted. _____
- 7) She's disappointed because she **just** passed her Bagrut exam.

- 8) I'm **just** as surprised as you are by the results of the test.

- 9) This is **just** the kind of book that Anne likes. _____
- 10) **Just** a second! I'm almost ready! _____
- 11) She's **just** someone I know, not a good friend at all. _____
- 12) Your test was **just** perfect. Congratulations! _____