They didn't believe in rules

In this lesson: Compare how strict your parents were

Core activities - 1a, 2-6, 8

Vocabulary - make, let and allow

Examples:

My parents made me go to piano lessons every week. (active)
I was made to go to piano lessons every week. (passive)
They allow their staff to take an extra 15-minute break. (active)
Their staff are allowed to take an extra 15-minute break. (passive)
Ben's mum lets him choose his own clothes. (active)

See 'Language reference' (Teacher's book page 103)

Listening

1 Go over the instructions and check understanding. Elicit or explain the meaning of homeschooling (‘educating a child at home, instead of sending them to school’).

2 Go over the instructions and check understanding. Elicit or explain the meaning of homeschooling (‘educating a child at home, instead of sending them to school’).

2a-b suggested answers

a) Magenta was bored, badly behaved and got bad grades.

b) Yes (Dawn says Magenta is much happier).

Extension

You may like to ask learners to use the words from activity 1 to describe Dawn, Magenta and Magenta's teachers.

CDS script S3 (page 96, Student book) 1:39

Well, it's not easy having a daughter like Magenta. A lot of people say she's badly behaved, but they just don't seem to understand that this is because she's so intelligent. You have to realise that... Last, the thing is, Magenta gets bored so easily, and strong discipline was never going to help her.

She used to go to a regular school, but the teachers didn't let her have any freedom. They just made her sit down all day and study traditional subjects... In fact, all the children were made to study exactly the same thing at the same time, and were never allowed to do the things they enjoyed. Magenta just hated it. That's why her grades were so bad, and it's also why she was so rude to all her teachers.

My husband and I allowed Magenta to leave school when she was 11. She's coming up to 15 now, so we've been teaching her at home for almost four years. I admit that it's been quite hard work, but Magenta's much happier, because we don't make her do anything she doesn't want to. Neither of us believe in having too many rules and... like... well, we think children should be allowed to study what they want to. Which is, you know, why Magenta is learning about dressmaking and acupuncture. Because, like, these are the things she is really passionate about.

3a-f answers - in bold, 4 answers - underlined

a) They didn't let Magenta have any freedom.

b) They made Magenta sit down all day and study traditional subjects.

c) They weren't allowed to do the things they really enjoyed.

d) They allowed Magenta to leave school when she was 11.

4 In pairs, learners tick the sentences in activity 3 which talk about forcing or not forcing someone to do something.

5 Take brief responses to the questions as a way of rounding off the listening section.
Language focus
Go over the explanations and examples with learners.

Practice
6a-f
Go over the instructions and example to check understanding. Learners use make, let, or allow in the correct form to complete the sentences.

6a Answers
a) My son really wanted to watch the football, so I let him stay up late.
b) My old boss was so mean, she made me work very hard every night.
c) I was made to tidy my room at least twice a week by my parents.
d) John finished all his homework before dinner, so he was allowed to play video games before bedtime.
e) Jennifer let me borrow her car while mine was being repaired.

Sounding natural
7a Learners listen and tick the sentences they hear.

7a Answers
See CDS script 54

CDS script 54 (page 97, Student book) 0:25
1) I allowed them to go home early. (column A)
2) They made me work very hard. (column B)
3) I allow him to pay. (column B)
4) They made Emma eat all her vegetables. (column A)

7b Model the activity. Read a sentence from activity 7a and elicit which column (A or B) it is from.
Put learners in pairs. Have them take turns choosing and reading sentences from activity 7a for their partner to say which column they are from.

Time to talk
8a Go over the instructions and example to check understanding. You may like to give two or three examples of how strict or lenient your own parents were, as a model. Learners work alone, think about when they were growing up, and make a note of examples of how strict or lenient their parents were.
Monitor and assist as necessary.

Practice
6 Use make, let, or allow in the correct form to complete the sentences.

a) I was really excited to watch the football, so I made him stay up late.
b) My old boss was so mean, she made me work very hard every night.
c) I was made to tidy my room at least twice a week by my parents.
d) John finished all his homework before dinner, so he was allowed to play video games before bedtime.
e) Jennifer let me borrow her car while mine was being repaired.

Sounding natural
7 a) Let's check the sentences that you hear.

8b Go over the instructions and check understanding. Learners work with a partner and compare notes to decide who had the strictest / most lenient parents.
Monitor, but stay in the background as much as possible during this activity.

8c Feedback. Learners tell the class what they decided, and why.

Homework
Highlight the homework reference at the bottom right of page 75 of the Student book. Ask learners to turn to page 110.
Set lesson 18 activities 1 and 2 for homework.
Go over the instructions and examples to check understanding.

Homework answers
1 a) That kid is allowed to do whatever she wants.
b) As a punishment, the sports teacher made the boys run ten laps of the sports field.
c) Her boss lets her go home an hour early every Friday.
d) I was made to pay a fine when I was caught speeding by the police.
e) Her parents don't make her do anything. They even let her stay out until midnight.
f) John's dog is allowed to sleep wherever it wants – even in his bed.
g) Dave, stop! You're not allowed to go in there!

2 a) She is really gifted. She could play the piano at four years old.
b) They were really well-brought-up children – very polite and quiet.
c) Those kids are terribly spoilt. Their parents let them get away with anything.
d) Her coach is really strict – he never gives her a day off from training.
e) John said that he was untalented, but actually he's a really good footballer.
f) You're far too lenient with those kids. They don't have any rules!