

Pressures of an Adult Student

Revised selection – original text by Sarin Pann, Rochester
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Pre-reading

Questions:

- What kinds of pressure might an adult student have? Why?

Definitions:

- Pressure – a demand or stressor
- Coordinate – to make different things work together well
- Rewarding – giving satisfaction; worthwhile

Reading

13 Adult students experience a lot of pressure. Being an adult student is difficult
29 for me because I am **responsible** for more than just school. I need to pay bills,
coordinate my work and school schedules, and take care of my family.

41 I am responsible for personal payments while going to school, such as my car
55 and cell phone. When I bought my car, I had to borrow money from the bank. I
72 need to repay the bank which includes interest. I need to make a monthly payment.
87 If I don't make the payment on time, the bank will charge me a fee. If I don't pay at
107 all, the bank will take my car.

114 I have to manage my work and school schedules. My work schedule changes
127 every month. For example, this month I work from Thursday to Saturday. That's a
141 good fit with my school schedule. I can go to class three days a week this month.
158 Next month my work schedule changes. I work from Monday through Wednesday,
170 and can only go to school one day a week.

180 Spending time with my family is more difficult when I'm going to school. I
194 don't even have enough time to go to a movie with my wife!

207 Even though there is a lot of pressure with being an adult student, I am very
223 happy that I can go to school. I am learning the English language and more about
239 U.S. culture. It is a very rewarding experience.

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Level 4.0

Understanding

1. What pressures does the author have? (List at least three.) _____

2. What days are adult classes held at the school he attends? _____

3. How many days a week does he work? _____

4. Why is he going to school? _____

5. What does the word **responsible** mean? _____

Writing

Choice A: Retell the story in your own words.

Choice B: What pressures do you have as an adult student? How do you cope with those pressures?
