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# GRANDPARENTS AND TEENAGERS

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**Q**

**My parents are getting on in years and my father is very frail. They rarely go out of the house and depend on the family calling for company. Sunday afternoons have been the day we go round. Now my 15 year old son refuses to go. He says it is boring and he'd rather watch the telly. I think he is very inconsiderate and selfish and have told him so. At 15 do you think I should make him?**

**A**

Realistically, it is hard to know how anyone would make a 15 year old visit his grandparents short of frog marching him out of the house - not a good idea. If you did force him, he would probably be sulky and unco-operative during the visit and maybe resentful with you for some time afterwards.

Teenagers tend to be accused of being inconsiderate. Sometimes this impression is given because of thoughtlessness or lack of understanding and experience of the true situation. It is probably fair to say that your son cannot grasp the meaning a family visit has for his grandparents in the way in which you can.

Let's look at how you can move towards some compromise. Could he and would he drop in on his own for a few minutes at a time other than Sunday? Would he go with a friend? Would it appeal to him if he was asked to do something practical for his grandparents rather than go and sit and talk?

This might sound as if it is pandering to a teenagers' whims. But faced with a total brick wall it is necessary to look for a compromise. If all fails leave the subject for a while and have a chat with your son again, acknowledging that it isn't what he would choose to do and talking through with him how any company makes an enormous difference to his grandparents' day.

