

A problem

Eileen wants to go to drama school, but her parents are against it. Read her letter:



“I have always wanted to become an actress. I have often acted in school drama productions and with the drama group in our town. I have already written my own scripts and in 2002 I won the “Young Actors’ Award”. My parents have tolerated this interest as a hobby, but they have never taken it seriously.

Last year my parents persuaded me to stay on at school to do A-levels. I have already told them that I want to go to drama school, but they say it’s a dead-end job with very uncertain prospects. They want me to study law. I’m a creative person – law would be the worst thing I can imagine.

We have spoken a lot about my future recently, but they haven’t changed their views. They have had no reason to be angry with me. So far I have done reasonably well in school. Up to now my marks have been average or even better. My marks in English have always been very good.

Two months ago I applied for a place at RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London). I didn’t tell my parents. Last week I received a reply inviting me to go down for interview and first audition. I have considered leaving home if I am offered a place. The trouble is, it would cost a lot of money and my parents wouldn’t give it to me. How could I possibly support myself?

I have just had a serious argument with my parents, although I have never really quarrelled with them in my life before. Yesterday my friend said: “Have you ever done anything that your parents didn’t want? Because if you haven’t, now is the time.” But I haven’t had my 18th birthday yet.

I think I am afraid of the future, but I have not made up my mind yet about leaving home. My parents want what’s best for me – but do they really know what that is? What shall I do?”

Search the text and mark the adverb phrases of time that signal a) the present perfect and b) the past simple. Then translate the following text:

Eileen hat in letzter Zeit viel Streit mit ihren Eltern gehabt. (*to quarrel a lot*) Sie wollte immer Schauspielerin werden. 2002 hat sie sogar einen Preis gewonnen. Vor zwei Monaten hat sie sich um einen Platz bei der RADA beworben. Sie hat ihre Eltern noch nichts davon erzählt. Gestern hat sie eine Antwort (*reply*) erhalten. Sie hat gerade mit (*to*) ihrer Freundin gesprochen. Sie hat ihr schon von (*about*) ihren Problemen erzählt. Bis jetzt haben ihre Eltern den Ernst (*seriousness*) der Lage nicht erkannt. (*realize*) Eileen weiss nicht, was sie tun soll. Sie hat sich noch nicht entschieden.

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Last year my parents persuaded me to stay on at school to do A-levels. I have **already** told them that I want to go to drama school, but they say it’s a dead-end job with very uncertain prospects. They want me to study law. I’m a creative person – law would be the worst thing I can imagine.

We have spoken a lot about my future **recently**, but they haven’t changed their views. They have had no reason to be angry with me. **So far** I have done reasonably well in school. **Up to now** my marks have been average or even better. My marks in English have **always** been very good.

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I think I am afraid of the future, but I have **not** made up my mind **yet** about leaving home. My parents want what’s best for me – but do they really know what that is? What shall I do?”

Translation:

Eileen has quarrelled a lot with her parents **recently**. She has **always** wanted to be an actress. **In 2002** she even won a prize. **Two months ago** she applied for a place at RADA. She hasn’t told her parents (anything) about it **yet**. **Yesterday** she received a reply. She has **just** spoken to her friend. She has **already** told her about her problems. **Up to now** / **So far**, her parents haven’t realized the seriousness of the situation. Eileen doesn’t know what to do. She hasn’t decided **yet**.