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# Reading (I)

**Read the passages fluently using the correct pronunciation.**

## Reading Passage 1

To my mother's irritation, my brother broke her favourite antique vase while playing football in the house. Instead of feeling remorseful, he defiantly told her that the vase was in the way. She reprimanded him and told him off for breaking the house rule by playing ball in the house.

The problem was aggravated when my mother realised that there was mud on the ball and it had dirtied her carpet. She demanded that my brother apologise and help to clean the carpet. My defiant brother refused to do what he was told to. Instead, he took the ball to the park to play.

Feeling sorry for my mother, I offered to help her. I assured her that my brother would realise his mistake and apologise to her later.

## Reading Passage 2

Yesterday afternoon, the new president of the company spoke to the employees. His speech was provocative and many employees went away feeling disgruntled and uncomfortable about the plans he had for the company.

The employees were to abstain from talking to one another during office hours except at meetings. Overtime was regarded as inefficiency and the lights and air condition in the office were switched off at exactly six in the evenings. Those who were unable to finish their work resorted to taking the work home. The employees felt that the new president was irrational and unreasonable.

Eventually, when the president requested his employees to carry out a task on his behalf, they were contemptuous of him and did not feel obliged to help him. Instead, they all claimed to be so busy with their own work that they were unable to help out.