Contrasts 2

1. Vocabulary

1. commencement
2. biological
3. popped out
4. figure out
5. naïve
6. relent

2. Lesson: Connect the Dots

Why did Steve Jobs drop out of college?

An interesting story from his commencement address for the class of 2005 of Stanford University.

"It started before I was born. My biological mother was young, unwed college graduate student, and she decided to put me up for adoption.
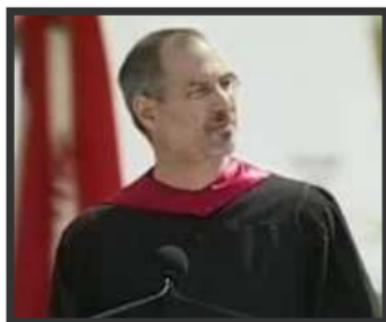
She felt very strongly that I should be adopted by college graduates, so everything was all set for me to be adopted by a lawyer and his wife. Except that when I popped out they decided at the last minute that they really wanted a girl, so my parents, who were on a waiting list, got a call in the middle of the night asking: "We have an unexpected baby boy; do you want him?" They said: "Of course."

My biological mother later found out that my mother had never graduated from college and that my father had never graduated from high school.

She refused to sign the final adoption papers. She only relented a few months later when my parents promised that I would someday go to college. Seventeen years later, I did go to college, but I naively chose a college that was almost as expensive as Stanford. And all of my working - class parents' savings were being spent on my college tuition.

After six months, I couldn't see the value in it. I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life and no idea how college was going to help me figure it out. And here I was, spending all of the money my parents had saved their entire life. So I decided to drop out and trust that it would all work out okay. It was pretty scary at the time, but looking back it was one of the best decisions I ever made. The minute I dropped out, I could stop taking the required classes that didn't interest me, and begin dropping in on the ones that looked interesting.

3. Practice:

A. Let's go back to the article.

1. What do you know about Steve Jobs? What has he done that made a positive impact on your life, and to the people around you?

2. What did the biological mother of Steve Jobs want for him?

3. Why did the first adoption plan with the lawyer not happen?

4. Why did his biological mother refuse to sign the final adoption papers?

5. Why did Steve Jobs drop out of college? Why was dropping out the best decision he ever made?

B. Match the sentence halves and join them with **while or whereas.**

1. Steve Job's biological mother was a college graduate,

2. Steve Wozniak said he always wanted to become an engineer and he was not interested in glory, politics, or business

3. Steve's parents worked hard to save for his tuition fee,

4. It was a scary thing,

5. Steve's parents could hardly afford his college tuition fee

6. The lawyer and his wife decided to a adopt Steve,

7. Steve chose a very expensive school,

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a. his adoptive mother wasn't

b. Steve Jobs was a businessman and a business leader

c. he dropped out of college

d. it was the best decision he had ever made

e. they were bound by the promise they'd make to send him to college

f. they opted to have a girl instead

g. some children nowadays don't have the opportunity to go to school

While, Whilst, Whereas

While or **whilst** – used to introduce something that qualifies what is said in the main clause or something that may seem to conflict with it. The **while / whilst** clause comes before or within the main clause, but not after it:

* **While / whilst** there is no evidence that Peter cheated, we were all astonished that he passed the exam. (*not* We were all astonished that he passed the exam, **while ...**)

* The diesel model of the car, **while /whilst** more expensive, is better value for money.

While or **whereas** (or less often **whilst**) – used to say that something contrasts with something in the main clause. The **while/whereas** clause may come before or after the main clause:

* Dave gets lots of homework from school, **while/whereas** Sue gets very little.

* **While/whereas** I always felt I would pass the exam, I never thought I would get an A grade.

We don't use **whereas** where what is said in the subordinate clause makes what is said in the main clause unexpected:

* **Although/While** Maria's father is from France, she doesn't speak French. (*not Whereas...*)

Level 3 Textbook Second Edition