

# 11

## Forgetfulness and fading memories

Level: 



### Let's think!

1. What are some common age-related illnesses?
2. How well do you know Alzheimer's disease?

PLAYLIST



READ ALONG



### The time thief

**1** It was a chilly, cloudy Sunday morning—a bitter day for Laura. Laura was a committed secondary school teacher. Even at weekends, she was in school doing the marking.

Looking through the windows, she saw a street cleaner **5** sweeping fallen autumn leaves and a few old folks practising Tai Chi in the shade. A call from her mum broke the silence in the staffroom.

**2** 'Dear, I thought your dad went to the park near home as usual on Sundays. But when I went to look for him, he **10** was nowhere to be found!' Laura's mum said desperately.

**3** 'Mum, stay calm. Can the tracking app show his location? Maybe he is somewhere near the park?' said Laura flatly.

**4** 'He left his phone at home. I ... I've searched for him around the park and places he often visits, like the library and **15** the newsstand. What should I do now? He always tells me his whereabouts,' her mum said in a trembling voice.

**5** 'Ugh ... let me come over and see what we can do,' whined Laura.

**6** An hour later, they found Dr Tang at a bus stop near the hospital where he worked. He was in a trance, standing still and gazing absent-mindedly at the ground. It was not until Laura patted him **20** on the shoulder that he seemed to recognise their presence and snap out of a dream. At that moment, both Laura and her mum had an eerie feeling.

**7** 'Laura? Why are you here? It's Friday and you should be teaching in school!' her dad questioned with a confused look.

**8** 'No, Dad. It's Sunday today. Why are you standing here? You seem very tired,' Laura frowned and replied bluntly. **25**



9 'Sunday? You sure? Ah ... That's why ...' the 60-year-old doctor murmured.

10 After that terrifying incident, Laura, with her mum, started to keep a more watchful eye on Dr Tang. She discovered that he wore different socks to work and forgot his appointments with patients. It was heartrending for her to see his condition worsening day by day. 30

11 'Dad, you are getting confused about quite a few things these days ... It doesn't seem normal to me. Shall we arrange a medical check with the neurologist, Dr Wong? Maybe he can give us some advice,' Laura asked gingerly. 35

12 'You think I'm having dementia, right? I'm a doctor so I can make my own diagnosis. If I suffered from dementia, I would behave worse than what you see! I'm just too drained from work,' argued Dr Tang with his ears turning red.

13 However, one day when the family went out together, Dr Tang was suddenly spaced out while crossing the street. It was the last straw. Laura decided not to procrastinate until something irreversible happened and finally talked him into seeing Dr Wong. 40

14 'My friend, I guess you're coming here to confirm what you've known. You're at the fourth stage of Alzheimer's disease—moderate cognitive decline. You might have experienced reduced ability to perform routine tasks, non-responsiveness, increased forgetfulness and concentration difficulty. You may have been in denial too. There's currently no cure for the disease but some treatments can slow down the course. It's never too late as long as you have the will to do so,' Dr Wong told Laura's dad. 45

15 'You know, now it's my turn to be on the receiving end, I truly understand how a patient feels. It's devastating for me, my career and of course for my family. If I had spent more time with Laura and my wife, I would have created more blissful memories with them,' Dr Tang said, trying hard to hold back his tears. 50

16 Meanwhile, Laura was on the bench in the waiting area, crying in sorrow ...

~640 words

### Looking into Grammar

We can use **conditional sentences and various conditional expressions** to talk about situations and their probable results.

- ✓ *If I suffered from dementia, I would behave worse than what you see!* (imaginary situation)
- ✓ *It's never (✗ It'll never be) too late as long as you have (✗ will have) the will to do so.*

? Underline ONE conditional sentence in paragraph 15. Then circle its function below. It ( talks about a future imaginary situation / expresses regret ).

Read the text and answer questions 1–14. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken **ONE** circle only. (23 marks)

1. The mood in paragraph 1 can be described as \_\_\_\_\_.

- |               |             |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A. playful    | C. gloomy   | A                     | B                     | C                     | D                     |
| B. reflective | D. peaceful | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

2. Look for words in paragraph 1 that mean the same as the following:

- (i) cold \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) unpleasant \_\_\_\_\_
- (iii) devoted \_\_\_\_\_

3. Based on paragraphs 2–3, when Laura’s mum first told Laura that her dad had gone missing, her mum’s tone was \_\_\_\_\_ while Laura’s tone was \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. peaceful ... anxious
- B. terrified ... playful
- C. shocked ... surprised
- D. panicky ... calm

3 Eliminate the wrong descriptions of how each character sounds.

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A                     | B                     | C                     | D                     |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

4. According to paragraph 4, why was Laura’s mum worried about the missing of her husband?

---



---

5. Read paragraph 6. Decide whether the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG).

	T	F	NG
(i) Laura and her mum found her dad on a bus near the hospital.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) Laura’s dad was not completely conscious when they found him.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) Laura’s dad was thinking about one of his patients.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iv) Laura and her mum found her dad’s condition strange.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Did Dr Tang become more and more forgetful? Explain your answer based on paragraphs 7–10.

---



---

7. Look for a word in paragraphs 7–10 which means ‘causing great sadness’.

---

8. When Laura tried to persuade her dad to see a doctor, he felt \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. hot
- B. uneasy
- C. motivated
- D. guilty

8 What caused Dr Tang’s ears to turn red?

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A                     | B                     | C                     | D                     |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

9. When did Laura become determined to take Dr Tang to Dr Wong?

---




---

10. Find a word in paragraphs 12–13 which means ‘impossible to return to the previous condition’.

---

11. Based on paragraph 14, complete the description of the disease by writing ONE word to fill in each blank. The first letter of each word is provided. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.


For patients in the fourth stage of Alzheimer’s disease, they may (i) e\_\_\_\_\_ symptoms including lack of (ii) r\_\_\_\_\_ and reduced (iii) a\_\_\_\_\_ to carry out daily tasks. They will also become (iv) f\_\_\_\_\_ and find it (v) d\_\_\_\_\_ to concentrate.

 12. Did Dr Tang recognise that he might be suffering from ‘Alzheimer’s disease’ (line 43)? Explain your answer.

---



---

 13. Read paragraph 15. How did Dr Tang probably feel after hearing what Dr Wong said? Give ONE reason to support your answer.


---



---



---

 14. Which of the following is probably NOT what Laura was thinking ‘on the bench’ (line 52)?

- A. ‘I should spare some time to help Mum take care of Dad.’
- B. ‘I can’t bear to see Dad not remembering us one day.’
- C. ‘I will become a better teacher to make Dad proud.’
- D. ‘What can I do to slow down the deterioration of Dad’s condition?’

A      B      C      D  
        

**Pre-DSE Level Up**

**Q12: To answer this question, look for what Dr Wong said and rephrase it using the reported speech. We need to make changes to: (i) the pronoun and (ii) the tense.**

- (i) you → \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) have known → \_\_\_\_\_



# Vocabulary

## GLOSSARY



A. Complete the blog entry below with the given words. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

devastating (*adj.*)

gingerly (*adv.*)

heartrending (*adj.*)

irreversible (*adj.*)

moderate (*adj.*)

neurologist (*n.*)

procrastinate (*v.*)

spaced out (*adj.*)

the last straw (*idm.*)

whereabouts (*n.*)

www.myblog.com/danielchan

### The day Grandpa forgot me

Grandpa has not been feeling well these days. It has worried me a lot.

One day, when I was doing revision at home, Mum told me that Grandpa was in hospital.

I was completely shaken up by such (1) \_\_\_\_\_ news.

When Mum and I got to the hospital, we were led to a / an (2) \_\_\_\_\_,

who treats diseases of the nerves. Dr Wong told me that Grandpa was diagnosed

with (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Alzheimer's disease. I was completely

(4) \_\_\_\_\_ after hearing this. We were advised to keep track of

Grandpa's (5) \_\_\_\_\_ by installing an app on his phone to make sure

that we can locate him anytime.

A few months later, Grandpa nearly got hit by a car and this incident was

(6) \_\_\_\_\_. Mum finally agreed to place Grandpa in a care facility instead

of (7) \_\_\_\_\_ until his condition

becomes (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

The fact that Grandpa has been diagnosed with

Alzheimer's disease is (9) \_\_\_\_\_.

I'll never forget the first time Grandpa forgot my

name. He (10) \_\_\_\_\_ accepted the

food I gave him and asked, 'Do I know you?' ...



B. Put the phrases related to caring for Alzheimer's patients in the right categories.

**Dos and don'ts in caregiving**

allow them to drink alcohol

give them compliments

keep the medication in a place where they can reach it

let them go out alone

prepare nutritious food for them

set routines and write down reminders for them

show them photos to aid memory

stop them from helping around the house

**Dos**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Don'ts**

5. Don't \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Don't \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Don't \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Don't \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Writing**

Is Hong Kong doing enough to help the elderly?

Write an article to express your views in about 200 words.

