

baby-sitters /1/ a wonderful point

We have **reached** a wonderful **point** in our lives as parents. **Now that** George is 15, he is **old enough to take care of** his three younger brothers when we go out. **At last** we don't have to **bother with** and pay too much money for baby-sitters.

I myself **would have let** George **look after the boys a couple of** years ago. **Even when he was** 13, he was **much more competent to deal with a crisis** than any of the Czech or Polish girls whom we **used to hire**. All they did for the money we paid them was **watch TV**.

The only **thing** that **persuaded** me to **pay** £15 or £20 for a baby-sitter was **the thought of the headlines** the next day if something **dreadful** happened while we were out: "**Evil** parents leave children alone with mad killer".

I am sure that the boys **would have dealt** much better with the mad killer **on their own, without having to listen to** a hysterical girl who did not **even know the English for** "Help!" But it **would have looked bad** if we **had left** them to **defend themselves**.