The generation gap

To bridge a gap
To widen a gap
A teenager = an adolescent
(adj) Teenage, ex: in his teenage years, in his teens
To be underage/a minor
To be of age
To be in your teens
To be in your early teens
To be in your mid-teens
To be in your late teens
a youngster = a youth
the youths, the young, Ø young people , Ø youngsters
Old-fashioned
An old fogey
Stuffy
Get on (well ) / along with
to quarrel/ to argue/ to have a quarrel/ an argument/ a row
to be at odds with
to answer back
to clash with
to stick to one’s guns
to rebel against
a rebel
unruly
to stand up to
obedient/ disobedient
cheeky
ill-bred / ill-mannered
to be critical of authority
to lecture
to boss somebody around
to be at the beck and call of sb
to comply with
to bow to authority
spoilt
lenient
permissive
easygoing
authoritative/ bossy/strict
overbearing
to tell off */ scold
“spare the rod and spoil the child”
To fend for yourself/cope alone
To infringe on/encroach on/intrude on your privacy
To poke your nose into*
To be nosy*
To be intrusive
Mind your own business!

le conflit des générations

combler un fossé
élargir
un adolescent
être adolescent
être mineur
être majeur
être adolescent
avoir un edouzaine d’années
avoir une quinzaine d’années
avoir une vingtaine d’années
un jeune
les jeunes
vx jeu
vx ringard
coincé
bien s’entendre avec
se disputer avec
être en conflit avec
répondre
se heurter
camper sur ses positions
se rebeller contre
un rebelle
indicipliné
tenir tête à
obeisant/ désobéissant
insolent (what a nerve! The nerve!= Quel toupet!)
mal élevé
critiquer l’autorité
sermonner
mener au doigt et à la baguette
obéir au doigt et à l’œil
se plier à
plier devt l’autorité
gâté
indulgent
laxiste
accommodant
autoritaire
dominateur
gronder/ disputer
“qui aime bien châtie bien”
se débrouiller tout seul
empiéter sur votre vie privée
fourrier son nez dans
être fouineur
être indiscret
Occupe toi de tes affaires/oignons!

A new word:

helicopter parents parents who hover over their child like a helicopter ie they overmanage, overprotect him/her, complain to the professors in university about their grading system, they complain to their child’s manager about his/her salary, his/her working conditions; they prepare their child’s tests, résumé and work interview and so on…
Parents should V
They ought to V
They had better V
If I were a parent I would

They shouldn’t V
They oughtn’t to V
They had better not V
If I were a parent I would/ wouldn’t V

Be tolerant = open-minded= broad-minded
be well-meaning bien intentionné
Be easy-going accommodant
Be understanding compréhensif
Be lenient indulgent
Be close to us proche
Be respectful of our privacy respectueux de notre vie privée
Be strict strict
Find a balance between strictness and leniency Trouver un équilibre entre l’indulgence et la sévérité

Teach us about life
Set an example
Leave us alone
Mind their own business
Make us share their experience
Lead us on the right path in life
Support us in hard times
Be supportive
Be role-models
Help us with…
Lend an ear to our problems
Respect our personality- whatever it is…
Say a word sometimes
Give us their opinion on such and such a matter
Nous donner leur point de vue sur tel et tel problème
Be a helping hand
Abstain from interfering in our private life
Allow/ permit us to see our friends
Enable us to assert ourselves
Enable us to express ourselves
Develop our abilities
Pay attention to our marks, problems, friends
Let us decide for ourselves

intolerant=be close-minded= narrow-minded
be too strict
be authoritative / bossy
boss us around mener au doigt et à la baguette
be on our back être sur notre dos
be boring/ tedious être ennuyeux
be disrespectful irrespectueux
be too strict
be stressing être stressant
be unbearable être insupportable
be permissive laxiste

They ought to V
Parents

If I were a parent I would V

Parents

If I were a parent I would V

Parents

If I were a parent I would V

What is your idea of ideal parents?

Because of the generation gap parents and children often disagree, and some children being under the impression that they will be forever misunderstood, wish they had ideal parents. We may wonder about the qualities such so-called ideal parents should have – a very personal consideration indeed.

First, it is worth pointing out that it may be hard to find ideal parents given that parents and children are worlds apart. As a consequence the latter who can judge if parents are ideal or not often disapprove of their parents’ decisions. Whatever their well-meaning parents do, children will reproach them with something….

And indeed, in my opinion ideal parents should be able to find the balance between leniency and strictness.

On the one hand, they ought to be strict because children are not aware of what is good for their future, their health. As the saying goes, spare the rod and spoil the child. For instance there is nothing wrong with parents imposing a curfew or not giving much pocket for the children to learn the value of money. They also have to pay attention to our marks and friends, tell us off when we are to blame. All kids need to have supportive parents as well, provided they do not meddle with our privacy too much.

Indeed, on the other hand parents should leave us alone for us to make our own mistakes and not be too bossy. To my mind, kids never learn from their parents’ mistakes. Parents ought not to be nosy and mind their own business. For example, I can’t bear parents nosing about in my room, how disrespectful of them! Moreover, they mustn’t be too old-fashioned and let us have our clothing style, listen to the type of music we enjoy. Ideal parents are open-minded ones. They shouldn’t always criticise and lecture us, be on our backs all the time. Children need to enjoy freedom too.
All in all it seems to me that all parents try to be the best, which is no easy task with teenagers who resent/dislike being deprived of initiative and want to enjoy every moment of their life. For me, ideal parents lovingly provide children with care and support. Respectful of children’s personality, they enable them to blossom out and find their own path in life.