

## **PREGNANT WOMEN STANDING ON THE BUS**

Many people complain about people on public transportation not giving up their seats to pregnant women, the handicapped, or the elderly.

I've seen pregnant women board a bus and stand while men sit reading their papers and pretend not to notice. I've watched teenagers chatter with their friends and "act cool," while passengers with braces on their legs stand.

I was taught common courtesy at a young age. I remember being told by my mother that if I didn't offer my seat to a handicapped person or an elderly man or woman I wouldn't be able to sit down for a week. Today, people have no respect for members of their own family, so how can we expect them to respect strangers?

Do you know why so many women stand on buses and subways while the men sit and read newspapers? I'll tell you. Those men were raised with no manners. Last week, I was seated behind a woman and her teenage son. The kid was engrossed in his comic book. An elderly lady got on and stood near us, struggling to stay upright. She had a cane and limped badly. The woman in front of me gave her son a sharp poke in the ribs and said, "Get up and give that lady your seat, Howard, before I let you have it upside your head". Maybe she wasn't very refined but she was doing a fine job of bringing up her son, and I told her so before I got off.

### **What Does It Mean?**

1. Act "cool"
2. Passengers with braces on their legs
3. Common courtesy

### **Questions for Discussion:**

1. Who do ordinary people concede their seats to on public transportation?
2. Do many people give up their seats on public transportation?
3. What does the writer think the reason is for people's bad manners?
4. Why does the writer think there are many women standing on the bus?
5. What did the writer say to the mother before he got off the bus?
6. Do you think people should give up their seats to pregnant women?
7. Do you think people should give up their seats to young children or to the elderly?
8. Do you usually give up your seat on a crowded means of transportation?