

Belated Birthday Gift

Chi Zhang

BEFORE YOU READ:

1. What does belated mean? Have you ever wished someone a belated happy birthday?
2. In English, we say a mother “gives birth.” How do you say this in your native language?

Two days after my birthday, I gave birth to my son. I will always remember that day.

The strange feelings in my body at that time left me with a deep memory. It also made me realize just what my mother went through when she gave birth to me!



come out. After a hard push, with the help of doctors and nurses, my son was finally born.

Giving birth to this baby made me understand that motherhood is not easy. When I saw my mother for the first time after my son was born, I cried and said, “Dear mother, thank you for giving birth to me.”

And to my son, I say, “Dear son, thank you for choosing me to be your mother. Thank you for this belated birthday present.”

AFTER YOU READ:

1. What insight did Chi gain from giving birth to her son?
2. Talk about how a birth has changed your perspective.

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My labor began when I finished my lunch and was sitting on the sofa talking with my mother. I was just two days past my due date and we were still talking about when the new baby would arrive. Suddenly, I felt like something broke, in the lower part of my body. Then I felt my contractions start to get stronger. I also felt the urge to pee.

Next, I stood up and went to the toilet. Suddenly, a lot of water flowed out from my body. It turned out that the sac that holds the amniotic fluid had broken. After that, I felt a very strong pain. My mother and husband came to me in a hurry and we set off to the hospital. When I arrived at the hospital, the baby was ready to

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Chi Zhang is a student at the Community Learning Center (CLC) in Cambridge, MA. Due to her husband’s work, she came to Cambridge from Singapore. She says, “Our little family really enjoys living here in Cambridge. I appreciate the CLC, which teaches me English and gives me opportunities to meet more friends.”

