1. Read the article.

TWIN TALK

For years, people have thought that twins, brothers and sisters born at the same time, have a secret language. Many parents of twins have claimed that their children have a secret way of talking to each other by using words their parents don't understand. For a long time, "twin language" was unexplained. However, research now shows that twins rarely develop secret languages. So, why do people think twins have a special way of communicating?

When they are learning to speak, all babies often make sounds that their parents don't understand. For example, a child may call a bottle *baba*. Since twins are the same age and are learning language at the same time, they often repeat each other's mistakes. So, if one of the twins calls a bottle *baba*, the other will likely start to do the same. Soon, the twins are using the same incorrect word. Parents may mistake this for a secret language, when in reality, the twins are learning new words like any other child.

Research shows that true secret languages – languages in which words really are invented – don't happen very often. And when this happens, it is usually when babies spend a lot of time alone and don't have many people talking around them.

Some research shows that it often takes longer for twins to begin speaking than for children who are not twins. This could be because parents of twins can be busier than parents with just one baby, so the parents don't have as much time to spend with each of their twin babies. Researchers also claim that because twins understand each other's language mistakes, it may take them longer to learn words correctly. In addition, twins often use hand gestures as a way to communicate, which may make learning to talk take longer.

As twins get older, like many brothers and sisters who are not twins, they may create secret words for things they don't want their parents to understand!

Circle the correct answers.

1. Many parents think that their twins_____.
   a. learn to speak quickly
   b. use gestures instead of words
   c. have a secret way of communicating
2. Research shows that twins_____.
   a. make up words to confuse their parents
   b. make the same mistakes when they talk
   c. correct each other's mistakes when they talk
3. True secret languages usually happen when children___.
   a. have older brothers and sisters
   b. don't have much communication with adults
   c. are born at the same time
4. Research says twins can take longer to begin to speak____.
   a. because they understand each other's gestures
   b. when their parents correct their mistakes
   c. when they have older brothers and sisters that aren't twins
5. The article suggests that_____enjoy making up words their parents don't understand.
   a. only twins
   b. only children who are not twins
   c. many children

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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