Noun clauses after *be*

***The downside of*, *the upside of*, *the hard part about*, *the good thing about*, *the only thing about*, *the trick to*, *the secret to*, and *one difficulty with* are used in complex phrases that introduce noun clauses after *be*.**

The downside of sharing a bedroom is (that) it's hard to have any privacy.
The hard part about being a twin is (that) people are always calling you by the wrong name.
The trick to living in a crowded house is (that) you have to find a private space of your own.
One difficulty with being the youngest is (that) everyone is always telling you what to do.

The phrases ending with a preposition can be followed by a gerund phrase, *not* + a gerund phrase, or a noun phrase.

The secret to **getting along with your siblings** is (that) you have to respect their privacy.
The good thing about **not being in a big family** is (that) you always get to choose what's on TV.
The upside of **a large family** is (that) you always have someone to spend time with.
The only thing about **working moms** is (that) they have less time to spend with you.

1 Complete the sentences with *about*, *of*, *with*, or *to*.

1. The best thing ___*about*___ my grandmother living with us is that she's a great cook.
2. The upside _____ being a two-income family is we can afford a few small luxuries.
3. One difficulty _____ living with my in-laws is that they want everything their way.
4. The trick _____ living in a large family is you have to learn to respect each other.
5. The hard part _____ strict parents is you always have to remember the rules.
6. The problem _____ not going to our family reunion is I won't see my cousins.

2 Rewrite the sentences. Change the noun phrases in boldface to gerund phrases.

1. The trouble with **a big family** is it's expensive to feed everyone.
   The trouble with having a big family is it's expensive to feed everyone.
2. The trick to **a two-income family** is you have to schedule family time together.
3. The hard part about **a big house** is there's so much work to do.
4. The upside of **a big house** is no one has to share a room.
5. The only bad thing about **little brothers** is I always have to babysit them.
6. One good thing about **little sisters** is they really look up to you.
7. One problem with **an extended family** is we had to get a bigger car.
8. The greatest thing about **a small house** is the bills are a lot lower.

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