A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman's birthday, but never remembers her age.
*Robert Frost, American poet*

# 3A The generation gap

## 1 GRAMMAR past simple, past continuous, or *used to*?

**a** Correct the mistakes in the higlighted phrases.

1 I didn't went out much when I was a teenager.
*I didn't go out*

2 We taked my parents out for dinner last night.
_____

3 My brother used to had a beard, but now he's shaved it off. _____

4 We were sit in the garden when my grandparents arrived. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 Where you stayed when you went to Greece?

_____

6 I didn't used to eat many vegetables when I was a child.

_____

7 What was you doing when I saw you in town yesterday? _____

8 I gave up trying to explain when I realized that you didn't listening. _____

9 You use to play in the street when you were young?

_____

10 My girlfriend stoped eating meat when she was a student. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**b** Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs. Use the past simple, past continuous, or *used to*. Sometimes more than one answer may be possible.

1 My parents *didn't own* a car until they *got married*. (not own, get married)

2 I _____ late this morning, so I _____ time for breakfast. (wake up, not have)

3 When our guest arrived, I _____ to the children and my husband _____ the dinner. (read, finished)

4 Emily _____ glasses until she _____ working at the computer all day. (not need, start)

5 Ben _____ the doorbell because he _____ to music with his headphones on. (not hear, listen)

6 Luckily, they _____ very fast when they _____ the lamppost. (not drive, hit)

7 I _____ in Germany for a year when I _____ a student. (live, be)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

8 We _____ in the high street, but then they _____ a new hypermarket near our house. (go shopping, build)

9 My son _____ his boarding pass while we _____ at the airport for our flight. (lose, wait)

10 We always _____ our holidays in the same village when we _____ children. (spend, be)

**c** Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs. Use the past simple, past continuous, or *used to*. Sometimes more than one answer may be possible.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

I only ever [1] *met* (meet) one of my grandparents, and that was my dad's mother. We [2] _____ (see) her every Sunday afternoon when I was little. One day, my Granny [3] _____ (look after) me because my parents [4] _____ (visit) a friend in hospital. In the morning, I [5] _____ (play) in the garden, while my gran [6] _____ (cook) lunch. She [7] _____ (call) me when the meal was ready. Unfortunately, while I [8] _____ (run) into the kitchen I [9] _____ (catch) my little finger in the door and pulled off the nail. It [10] _____ (hurt) a lot, but I was more upset because I [11] _____ (not think) the nail would grow again. However, my gran patiently [12] _____ (explain) that I would soon have a new fingernail. After that, I [13] _____ (look forward to) seeing her every Sunday, so that I [14] _____ (can) show her how my nail [15] _____ (progress).

LIVEWORKSHEETS

## 3 **VOCABULARY** stages of life

Complete the sentences with the singular or plural form of a word or phrase for a stage of life.

1 Their b*aby* is only two weeks old, so he spends most of his time sleeping.

2 T_____ usually take more notice of their friends than they do of their parents.

3 I'm sure Jim isn't 40 yet, but he's definitely i_____ h_____ l_____ th_____.

4 One of the most important events for a p_____-_____ is starting secondary school.

5 Jake's dad is i_____ h_____ m_____ s_____, so he'll probably retire soon.

6 T_____ are exhausting when they've just learned to walk.

7 Laura is in her third year of university, so she must be i_____ h_____ e_____ tw_____.

8 My mum is now officially a p_____. She was 65 last Friday.

9 My boyfriend says that he wants to have lots of ch_____, but I'm not so sure.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

## 4 READING

**a** Read the article once and choose the best title.

A How to cope with a teenage daughter
B Mums and teenage girls: a love-hate relationship
C Why women eventually turn into their mothers

If you are part of a family with a teenage girl, you are no doubt aware of the chaos that their hormones can cause. A recent study has shown that, on average, teenage girls fall out with their brothers and sisters 257 times each year. The rows are not only reserved for siblings, however, as they also have 157 arguments with their fathers. But the person who is most frequently on the receiving end of a tantrum is their mother. The results of the study showed that a typical teenage girl has 183 rows with her mother each year.

According to the study, the third most common cause of rows between mother and daughter is the relationship the girl has with the rest of the family. Top of the list of causes is bedroom tidiness, followed by answering back. In fourth and fifth place come relationships with boys and staying out late. Other causes include appearance, attitude to school work, money, manners, and the use of bad language. This testing period can go on for several years, but the good news is that, in most cases, it eventually comes to an end.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

It seems that women finally start to appreciate their mothers in their early twenties – by the age of 23, to be exact. But despite the frequent arguments, most mothers and daughters have moments when they are close. Four in ten of the women in the study said that they sometimes had heart-to-hearts with their mothers about things that were worrying them. They regard these conversations as crucial in helping them get through their difficult teenage years. At the same time, the study shows that three quarters of women are grateful to their mum for the way they were brought up, even if they didn't realize it at the time. And 67 per cent recognize that their mum made them the person they are today.

When the 2,000 women in the study were asked about the ideal age gap for the perfect mother-daughter relationship, they recommended a difference of around 25 years. But few of the women think it is necessary for daughters to discuss personal matters with their mothers. Only one in five feel that mums and their daughters should be best friends who tell each other everything. Instead, three quarters feel that the relationship is best if some things remain private.

In summing up the situation, a representative from the organization that carried out the study said, 'Being a teenager is hard, but having a mum to turn to and talk things through or ask questions is priceless in helping young women to manage.'

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**b** Read the text again and mark the sentences **T** (true) or **F** (false).

1 Teenage girls often get angry because of their hormones. *T*

2 They argue most with their fathers. ___

3 The most common cause of arguments between a teenage girl and her mother is the way the girl treats her brothers and sisters. ___

4 Mothers and daughters have more arguments about going out at night than about having relationships. ___

5 They usually don't stop arguing until the daughter is in their late twenties. ___

6 Less than half of the women said that they discussed their problems with their mothers when they were teenagers. ___

7 75% of the women in the study think that their mothers did a good job. ___

8 The ideal age for the mother of a 19-year-old girl is 40. ___

9 Nearly all of the women think that daughters should tell their mothers everything. ___

10 In general, mothers can give essential advice to teenage girls. ___

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**c** Match the highlighted words and expressions in the text to the definitions.

1 brothers or sisters _____
2 noisy arguments _____
3 in the end _____
4 argue and stop being friends with somebody _____
5 replying rudely to somebody _____
6 a sudden explosion of anger _____
7 words that are considered offensive by most people _____
8 looked after and taught how to behave _____
9 near each other emotionally _____
10 in spite of _____
11 of very great value _____
12 conversations in which you say exactly what you feel _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

# 5 LISTENING

**a** iChecker Listen to a radio programme about a new TV series. Which word describes how the two groups of people feel about each other at the end of the first episode? Circle the correct answer.

1 hostile
2 neutral
3 sympathetic

**b** Listen again and correct the mistakes.

1 There are **four** participants in each group.
*five*

2 The *juniors* are all in their **thirties**.

_____

3 The *seniors* are all over **80**.

_____

4 The *juniors* thought that they were going to be in **a documentary**.

_____

5 Both groups were **pleased** to be sharing the same house.

_____

6 Each group received **six hundred pounds** to go shopping with.

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

7 The *juniors* bought a lot of **healthy food**.

_____

8 The *seniors*' questions were about **literature**.

_____

9 Sam doesn't know much about **geography**.

_____

10 The next episode of *Forever Young* is on **Friday**.

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS