

1 Growing up

Relationships, families and early learning

1.3  **1a** Listen again and decide which of the speakers (A–D) the sentences apply to.

- 1 The relationship between my brother and me is very close.^C
- 2 I have a lot more in common with my friends than with my family.
- 3 I have established a close connection with an older member of my family.
- 4 The relationship between my parents and me has broken down.

1.4 **COLLOCATION** Use words and phrases from the recording and the statements in 1.3 to complete the sentences.

- 1 My sister and I have totally different tastes. In fact we don't have much at all.
- 2 There is a very close between a mother and a newborn baby.
- 3 It is important to a good working relationship your work colleagues.
- 4 A relationship can easily if you don't work at it.
- 5 I really admire the relationship my mother and my grandmother.
- 6 There can be a lot of between teenagers and their parents.

Speaker A: On Mondays at school a group of us always talk about whatever movies we saw at the weekend. On Saturdays I often get together with my classmates and we see all the latest releases together. I can't remember the last time I saw a film with my parents – we just don't have much in common any more.

Speaker B: My parents are both teachers so you'd imagine I'd have no trouble at all academically. When I was little it was great because we had a really great relationship. But nowadays all we seem to do is argue and that causes a lot of conflict between us, so I don't really feel I can go to them for help. My friends aren't much help either as they've all got the same problem. Thank goodness I get on really well with my tutor at university. She's very approachable and, if I'm struggling with an assignment, I find her advice really helps me.

Speaker C: My parents are quite old so I feel as though they're out of touch with the modern world. They don't seem to have any idea of what things cost. I'm hoping to get a car in the next few months but I'll be taking my older brother along to help. We used to fight a lot when we were growing up but there's a really close bond between us now. He's already had a few cars so I'm sure he'll be a great help.

Speaker D: I play the violin and the piano and my grandad is a great cello player. A lot of my friends at school listen to all the popular bands and singers, but my tastes are totally different. I prefer classical music and they just don't understand it at all. Luckily Grandad shares my taste, so we often buy CDs and talk about them together.

Families and early learning

2.1 Scan the text below and underline these words:

rewarding sibling relate accommodating adolescence interaction nurture

Study links early friendships with high-quality sibling relationships

Children who experience a rewarding friendship before the birth of a sibling are likely to have a better relationship with that brother or sister that endures throughout their childhood, said Laurie Kramer in a University of Illinois study published in December's Journal of Family Psychology.

'When early friendships are successful, young children get the chance to master sophisticated social and emotional skills, even more than they do with a parent. When parents relate to a child, they do a lot of the work, figuring out what the child needs and then accommodating those needs,' says Kramer. However, this is not usually the case when two children are interacting.

The research showed that the benefits of early friends are long-lasting. Children who had a positive relationship with a best friend before the birth of a sibling ultimately had a good relationship with their sibling that lasted throughout adolescence, Kramer said. And children who as preschoolers were able to coordinate play with a friend, manage conflicts, and keep an interaction positive in tone were most likely as teenagers to avoid the negative sibling interaction that can sometimes launch children on a path of anti-social behavior, she added. 'From birth, parents can nurture and help develop these social competencies (or skills) by making eye contact with their babies, offering toys and playing with them,' she said.

2.2 Read the text and match the words you have underlined to the following definitions.

- 1 help someone/something develop and grow
- 2 agreeing to a demand
- 3 brother or sister
- 4 respond to somebody
- 5 the stage between childhood and adulthood
- 6 giving a lot of pleasure
- 7 communication



Vocabulary note

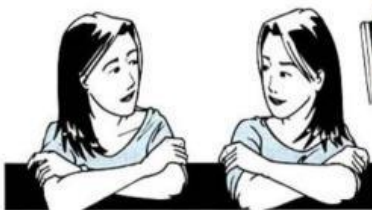
Look for familiar words in longer words to work out their meaning, e.g. correlation (one thing is linked with another); interrelated (the relationship between two or more things). NB The prefix co-, (correlation or cooperate) often means *with* or *together*. The prefix inter- (interact or intercity) often means *between*.

2.3 Read the text again and say whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F). Underline the part of the text that gave you your answer.

- 1 If young children have good friends then they will have a good relationship with their brother or sister.
- 2 Parents help their children develop more social and emotional skills than friends do.
- 3 Friends will give you what you want more often than your parents do.
- 4 Teenagers who fight with their brothers or sisters may behave in a way that is socially unacceptable.
- 5 If parents play with their children more then they will learn how to be more sociable.

3.2  **1b** Think about your answers to these questions. Then listen to a student's answers and tick the phrases you hear in 3.1.

- 1 Tell me about your family.
- 2 Who are you most similar to in your family?
- 3 What do you think it takes to be a good parent?



3.3  **1b** Listen again and find the words that match these definitions.

- 1 caring and supportive
- 2 the emotional connection between people or places
- 3 similar
- 4 your nature or character
- 5 determined to an unreasonable degree
- 6 handed down through a family

Teacher: Tell me about your family.

Student: Well, my immediate family is relatively small, just my parents, my two brothers and me. But both of my parents come from very large families so my extended family is very large – I have 25 cousins! Our family gatherings are pretty chaotic, but fun. We're a very close-knit family. Even though we don't live together any more, the family ties are still very strong. When we were little there wasn't very much sibling rivalry between us. I think it's because we had a very stable upbringing. Both of my parents played a very active role in our school life, and our home life, and they taught us to resolve our conflicts in a very fair way. I consider myself very lucky.

Teacher: Who are you most similar to in your family?

Student: Well, you can see a very clear family resemblance between my brothers and me, but everyone tells me that the physical resemblance between me and my maternal grandmother is very striking. Sadly, I never got to meet her because she died before I was born. But I've seen photographs of her at my age and we're quite alike. Other than that, I think I have my father's temperament – we're both very stubborn! But, thankfully, I also inherited his mathematical brain!

Teacher: And what do you think it takes to be a good parent?

Student: Well, I don't think just anyone can be a good parent. Not everyone has the right instincts. I think I have a very strong maternal instinct, because I love taking care of small children. So I hope to become a mother one day. I think it takes a great deal of patience and love.

Test practice

Test Tip



You may not hear exactly the same words as you see on the question paper, so you need to listen for paraphrases. If you miss an answer, go on to the next one. Remember that the questions are in the same order as the information in the recording. For notes completion items make sure you stick to the word limit given and check your spelling at the end.

LISTENING Section 1

1c

Questions 1–10

Complete the form below using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Ascot Child Care Centre Enrolment form

Personal details

Family name: *Cullen*

Child's first name: (1)

Age: (2)

Birthday: (3)

Other children in the family: a brother aged (4)

Address: (5), Brisbane

Emergency contact number: 3467 8890

Relationship to child: (6)

Development

- Has difficulty (7) during the day
- Is able to (8) herself

Child-care arrangements

Days required: (9) and

Pick-up time: (10)

three
4 o'clock
five
November 8
Tuesday
Monday
108 Park Road
grandmother
Alexandra
get dressed
sleeping