

1 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- Do you have brothers or sisters?
- Are they older or younger than you?
- How do you think having siblings affects a person?

2 Complete the magazine article with the words and phrases in the box.

a much as (x2) bit by far close as far more less more of a much more
slightly than the the more the most

The most fierce rivalry in the world



For many people, ¹ _____ the greatest rival they will ever face is their own brother or sister. Studies have shown that while growing up, siblings spend ² _____ time with each other than with anyone else. Often, this isn't all smooth sailing. One study found that siblings aged three to seven fought on average 3.5 times per hour. The closer siblings were in age, ³ _____ frequent the disagreement. Rivalry still exists, but is ⁴ _____ less obvious among siblings of different genders. Interestingly, some studies indicate that where one sibling shows ⁵ _____ skill at a certain activity, the other sibling may avoid that activity altogether. Experts say parents can reduce sibling rivalry by treating children ⁶ _____ equally as possible.

YOUR STORIES

Julie

My sister is just a little ⁷ _____ younger than me, eleven months. Whatever hobbies I took up, she wanted to copy them. When I was taking tennis lessons, she also decided to start, and before long became ⁸ _____ better player. The same thing happened with dance, violin and swimming. It really was ⁹ _____ frustrating thing ever.

Asim

My twin brother is ¹⁰ _____ clown than me – I'm quite shy and reserved. The more people laugh, ¹¹ _____ more jokes he makes. I've never really tried to be funny because I'll never be as entertaining ¹² _____ he is.

Marcos

I'm the sixth of seven siblings and we've always got on well, probably more easily ¹³ _____ in some other families because my parents were very strict about being fair and kind. We're as ¹⁴ _____ ever these days, in fact, we all live ¹⁵ _____ than ten minutes walk from each other!

3 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- Do you agree that sibling rivalry is the most fierce in the world? Why/Why not?
- Are the stories in the article similar to your own experiences? Why?