

## Scanning

Learning key vocabulary

Consolidating language or evaluating opinions in the text

Relating the topic to your knowledge of the world

Reading for detail

# Life stories

- ▶ Present perfect simple
- ▶ *for, since* and *ago* and Present perfect continuous
- ▶ Reading: *Parallel lives*
- ▶ Pronunciation: Strong and weak forms of *have*, linking
- ▶ Vocabulary: Describing life events, Positive characteristics
- ▶ Task: Talk about someone you admire
- ▶ Wordspot: *take*
- ▶ Writing: A curriculum vitae

## Reading

1 Work in pairs. Have you got any brothers or sisters? In what ways are you similar/different? Which of your parents/grandparents do you take after? Think about the following things.

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| facial expressions | opinions and attitudes |
| health             | personality            |
| looks              | tastes and interests   |

People say I look like my sister.

I'm completely different from my mother - she's ... but I'm ...

I think I take after my grandmother because I'm very ...

2 Do you know any twins? If so, are they identical or not? What kind of relationship have they got?

3 Read the text quickly. Which twins do each of these statements refer to?

- They seemed almost telepathic.
- They got married on the same day without knowing.
- The similarities between their lives were truly remarkable.
- They had their own special language.

4 Check the words and phrases in the box in your mini-dictionary. Then read the text again and tick the statements that are true about Professor Bouchard's research.

to be adopted    a coincidence    genes/genetic  
to influence someone    to be separated at birth  
your upbringing / to be brought up

- He contacted both identical and non-identical twins separated at birth.
- He collected as much information about them as he could.
- He found that the similarities between Terry and Margaret were very unusual.
- He found that twins who are brought up together always have more in common than twins who are brought up separately.
- He doesn't think upbringing has an important influence on personality.
- He has found that genes can influence:
  - the things we do in our free time.
  - how intelligent we are.
  - our political opinions.
  - the illnesses we have.
  - the things we like and dislike.

5 Discuss the following questions in small groups.

- Which of the similarities between the 'Jim Twins' do you find the most amazing?
- Which of the similarities do you think might be genetic, and which must be a coincidence?
- Which do you think is more important to our personality - our genes or our upbringing?

Margaret Richardson and Terry Connelly have almost identical taste in clothes, both have four children of more or less the same age, and both were married on exactly the same day. Not surprising, perhaps, Margaret and Terry are identical twins. What is surprising is that they didn't even meet until they were in their mid-thirties - after their children were born.

It is well known that twins are closer than most brothers and sisters - after all, they spend more time in each other's company. Occasionally, this closeness becomes extreme: for example, Grace and Virginia Kennedy who as children invented their own language; or Gieta and Freda Chapman who can speak the same words at the same time in the same voice, as if linked by telepathy.

But what happens if, like Terry and Margaret, identical twins are separated at birth and brought up in different families? Will their backgrounds make them completely different, or will their shared genes still mean that they have a lot in common? Professor Tom Bouchard from the University of Minnesota, set out to find the answer to this question. He traced more than a hundred pairs of twins who were adopted by different parents at birth, sixty-four of whom were identical twins. Each twin was then tested and interviewed about every detail of their life and personality.

It turned out that Margaret and Terry were not unusual. As well as looking very similar, many twins had the same IQ, the same health problems, the same hobbies and interests, the same attitudes and even the same tastes. Several pairs of twins arrived at their first meeting in the same clothes, and one pair of middle-aged women were wearing identical jewellery. Others had made the same career

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