

PREPARATION FOR THE TEST

READING - HAPPIEST AGE



They say that good things come to those that wait and, according to a recent survey, the saying appears to be true. The survey, carried out by 1 __ electronics company, found that the happiest age for working people in the UK is 58. The results revealed that people generally 2 __ find happiness until this time because there is so much going on in their lives. 3 __ most stressful age seems to be the thirties because it is the time when couples often decide to 4 __ a family. Although it is obviously a joyful occasion when a baby 5 __, it can take a little time to 6 __ having an infant in the house. 7 __ with sleepless nights is one thing if you don't have to get up early the next morning, but it is quite another if you need to 8 __ your boss's expectations at work.

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 a an | b the | c a |
| 2 a doesn't | b don't | c isn't |
| 3 a A | b An | c The |
| 4 a do | b make | c start |
| 5 a is born | b born | c are born |
| 6 a be used to | b get used to | c used to |
| 7 a Getting away | b Getting on | c Putting up |
| 8 a live up to | b get up to | c look up to |
| 9 a bring up | b grow up | c make up |
| 10 a are | b are going to | c will |

Analysing the study reveals that things get easier as children 9 __, and by the time parents reach their fifties, they are feeling better about their lifestyles. Of course, the prospect of retiring in the near future may be one reason for this. And for some, a further cause for celebration may be the news that they 10 __ become grandparents.



LISTENING

LISTEN TO FIVE SPEAKERS TALKING ABOUT THEIR FAMILIES. MATCH THE SPEAKERS (1-5) WITH THE STATEMENTS (A-F). THERE IS ONE EXTRA STATEMENT.



- A Speaker __ tells people about the life of an author.
 B Speaker __ is going to stay in his / her new country.
 C Speaker __ complains about his / her parents.
 D Speaker __ talks about a relative's husband.
 E Speaker __ introduces a programme for young people.
 F Speaker __ talks about how a place has changed.

VOCABULARY

COMPLETE THE PHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE WORDS BELOW.

calm / freedom / grateful / irritating / miserable / put up with / run out of /
schoolwork / stay out

Josh: -Hi, Maria. How's your exchange programme going?

Maria: -It's not going well, to be honest, and I feel pretty _____ about it.

Josh: -Poor you. Why's that?

Maria: -There are lots of rules in my host family's house. I can't _____ late, and I have to do all of my _____ before dinner. I've got no _____ at all.

Josh: -So you don't like the family?

Maria: -Well, the mum and dad are nice to me, and they help me a lot.

I am _____ to them, but they aren't easy to live with!

Josh: -Have they got any children?

Maria: -Yes - Mandy and Peter. Mandy is great, but Peter is really _____ sometimes.

Josh: -Why? What does he do?

Maria: -Well, it's difficult to _____ all of his sarcastic jokes. I think I'm going to _____ patience with him one day and hit him!

Josh: -Don't do that! Try to be _____ and relax.

Maria: -I am trying, but it's difficult!

VOCABULARY

READ THE TEXT AND CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORDS.

When my grandad **used to grow up / was growing up** in Jamaica, he **was going / used to go** to the beach every day after school. He **used to have / had had** a lot of friends in Jamaica, and he was really happy there. But when Grandad was six, his parents **used to move / moved to** Britain because his dad, my great-grandad, **had found / was finding** a good job there. He **used to / didn't use to** like it here in Britain because the weather was cold and he **had left / was leaving** all of his friends behind in Jamaica. But slowly he **used to / got used to** living here, and he made new friends. He **used to meet / met** my Grandma when they **were both living / had both lived** in Leeds. At the time, she **was studying / had studied** maths at Leeds University. Grandma and Grandad went out for a long time, but they **used to get / didn't get** married until Grandma had left university in 1971. That was years ago, of course, but I think they're still in love.